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ARAB TIMES



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1990/RAJAB 4, 1410 AH

NO. 7781

Pakistan tough over Kashmir

India thwarts UDI move: situation grim

ISLAMABAD, Jan 30, (Agencies): Pakistan does not want war with India over a Muslim rebellion in Kashmir but refuses to compromise over the region, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said today.

In a television address he reiterated Pakistan's denial of Indian claims that it is responsible for fomenting a rebellion in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"Pakistan will not be cowed by any pressure or threat and will continue supporting the Kashmiri people's right of self-determination," he said.

More than 60 people have died in India's Jammu and Kashmir state in the past week, plunging relations between the two countries to their lowest point since Premier Benazir Bhutto took power in late 1988.

Politicians, diplomats and the media have begun talking about another war as the level of rhetoric has risen on both sides of the divided mountain region neighbouring China.

Yaqub Khan underlined Pakistan's refusal to compromise and accused India of trying to stifle dissent in the two-thirds of Kashmir it rules.

Throughout his 12-minute address Yaqub Khan called the militants fighting in Indian Kashmir "freedom-fighters" — a description that is certain to infuriate India.

"Through civil disobedience, strikes and laying down their lives, the freedom fighters have proved ... that while the wave of freedom is sweeping the whole world, the Kashmiri people cannot be deprived of their basic rights and of self-determination by force," he said.

He accused the newly-elected Indian government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh of trying to hide the real cause of the revolt in the Kashmir valley by making baseless charges against Pakistan.

"This stand of India and allegations against Pakistan are totally contrary to the facts," he said.

India faces a major battle against Muslim militancy in Kashmir and only just managed to thwart plans for a unilateral declaration of the state's independence last week, a leading Indian official said today.

The official, a senior figure in Delhi's new Kashmir administration, briefed reporters days after India launched a diplomatic drive to fend off protests from Islamic countries over its clampdown on what appeared to be a popular revolt.

"The gravity of the situation hasn't dawned on the country — whether to say we can save Kashmir or not," said the official.

He said Indian intelligence agencies believed the militants planned to cap a week of protest in the summer capital, Srinagar, by declaring UDI from the city's main mosque last Friday, when India celebrated 40 years as a republic.

"The situation is very grim. We managed to control it on Jan 26. Peace has returned but ... the pressure is on," the official said.

In Srinagar today, Muslim militants taking advantage of a nine-hour curfew break, killed a shopkeeper believed to be a police informer, and thousands of protesters poured into streets calling for independence, witnesses said.

In an escalating war of words between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the chief of the Indian Army announced Islamabad against contemplating military intervention over the uprising in the region against Indian rule.

The Press Trust of India news agency quoted Gen. V.N. Sharma, the Indian Army chief of staff, as reiterating that India will, at whatever cost, protect its borders from a Pakistani attack.

"A bomb ripped through a fruit market in the Pakistan-administered part of Kashmir state today, killing a girl and wounding three other people, a state official said.

Criminal

A former director of the Romanian State Security Department, Major General Emil Macrì, detained in the jail of Timisoara on Jan 26, waiting for his trial charged with genocide. He was a top Securitate officer with the responsibility of trying to crush the revolution in Timisoara. (Reuter wirephoto) See Page 7

Aoun outlaws militia

BEIRUT, Jan 30, (Reuter): Lebanon's General Michel Aoun today effectively ordered the disarming of the powerful Lebanese Forces Militia (LF) with which he shares control of the Christian enclave.

"From now on, anyone who is angry, let him protest in the newspapers, let him demonstrate, but it is forbidden to protest through the rifle," Aoun told a rally by scores of supporters.

"There are no military identity cards except the identity cards of the Lebanese army ... there are no armed elements outside the framework of the army. Everyone who wants to carry a rifle is welcome to carry it inside the army with us," Aoun declared.

"We will not leave any rifle outside this ... anyone who thinks he can take anything with the rifle will take only his life," said Aoun, who commands some 15,000 mainly Christian troops.

Aoun was speaking hours after gunmen attacked his troops in the East Beirut neighbourhood of Furn Al Chebak after signs of increasing tension between the army and the 10,000-strong LF.

(See Page 11)

Ceausescu's car sold for \$10,000

BEIRUT, Jan 30, (UPI): A 1969 Cadillac once owned by executed Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu was secretly sold for \$10,000, an employee of the firm that brokered the sale said today.

An employee at a business office in the Christian neighbourhood of Ashrafiyah confirmed that her company co-ordinated the sale the black Cadillac but said she was instructed not to reveal the names of the people involved in the deal or say where the car was being kept.

Troops fight almost daily

Not so quiet ceasefire

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Jan 30, (Reuter): India and Pakistan have officially been at peace for nearly 18 years, but troops confronting each other across a volatile ceasefire line in Kashmir clash almost daily.

Fighting erupts in as many as six places a day along the 1,400 km (870 miles) control line, but United Nations observers say there has been no upsurge since a Muslim revolt engulfed Indian-controlled Kashmir this month.

Nor have the men serving with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (Unmogip) seen signs of Indian troop concentrations along the line, said the force's commander, Brigadier-General Jerry Enright.

More than 60 people have died in the last week as Muslims in Indian-held Kashmir have taken to the streets to battle security forces in protest against Indian rule.

India and Pakistan have twice gone to war over mountainous Kashmir and politicians in Pakistani-controlled Azad (free) Kashmir accuse India of reinforcing its side of the ceasefire line.

"We have no evidence of troop movements," Enright said in an interview. "Rumours circulate from time to time but we cannot give them any credence."

But there is plenty of evidence that the number of exchanges across the divide have increased dramatically in the past three years. In some places the opposing armies are only 200 metres (yards) apart.

The UN counted 120 Indian violations in 1987, 240 in 1988 and 600 last year.

New Delhi has refused to allow the UN to investigate Pakistani violations but Enright said the trend was the same.

"I am not talking about a few bursts of machine-guns fire. Thousands of rounds can be fired at a time," he said. "It is just a waste of ammunition."

Enright, a 60-year-old Irish veteran of UN forces in the Congo, Cyprus and Lebanon, said 14 people died on the Pakistani side last year and 40 were injured. Many were farmers working in their fields.

Unmogip's writ does not extend to the Siachen glacier where Indian and Pakistani troops confront each other at heights of up to 6,100 metres (20,000 feet) near the border with China.

The two sides frequently trade artillery fire across the glacier, the world's highest battlefield, but both armies admit that the harsh cold causes more casualties than the fighting.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Muslim gunmen that have brought normal life in India's Jammu and Kashmir state to a standstill and badly damaged its vital tourist industry.

Pakistan denies the charges but militant groups on both sides of the divide acknowledge that gunmen slip back and forth between Azad Kashmir and Indian territory.

Greece accused

Turks attacked

ANKARA, Jan 30, (Reuter): Turkey today condemned attacks against ethnic Turks in the Greek town of Komotini but said Athens had pledged to do its best to stop such incidents.

We vehemently condemn the tolerant attitude of the Greek authorities to the attacks on our citizens, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

It said the Greek government was responsible for yesterday's clashes in which 19 people were killed.

The incident in Komotini shows how minorities are being terrorised. Human rights in western Thrace are heavily violated," the statement added.

A ministry spokesman said Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras expressed understanding for Ankara's position, in a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Mesut Yilmaz last night.

"The Greek minister said he understood our position and that his government was doing its best to take necessary measures ... everything seems to be under control," the spokesman said.

The clash occurred after 1,500 Muslim ethnic Turks gathered near a mosque chanting "We are Turks."



No to US bases

About 1,000 militant Filipino students marched along the road outside the US embassy in Manila during an anti-American bases rally to denounce the government's

resumed talks with the US on renewal of military base lease agreement. (Reuter wirephoto) See Page 2



Policeman stoned

A black policeman recovers after being stoned during clashes in Bloemfontein yesterday between police and anti-apartheid demonstrators protesting

against a rebel tour of England cricketers to South Africa. (Reuter wirephoto)

Talks ruled out

Azeri flying squads blamed for killings

MOSCOW, Jan 30, (Agencies): Special Azerbaijani nationalist flying squads did much of the killing of Armenians in recent pogroms in Baku but ordinary people gave shelter to possible victims and prevented more murders, a senior Soviet official said today.

The official ruled out the possibility of opening talks direct with the main Azerbaijani nationalist movement, the Popular Front.

Mikhailov, who just returned from visit to Baku where at least 62 people — most Armenians — died in an orgy of ethnic violence, said he could not say categorically that the Popular Front, ordered the killings.

"But the pogroms could not take place without gunmen," he said.

He added that stockpiles of weapons were found at Popular Front offices searched by Soviet troops who stormed into Baku Jan 20. Mikhailov said searches also turned up numbers of bank savings books apparently stolen from Armenians.

■ The predominantly Russian city of Tiraspol has voted to declare itself autonomous from Soviet Moldavia, the government newspaper Izvestia said.

In a clear protest against a wave of Moldavian nationalism sweeping the republic 92 per cent of the city's 158,000 people took part in Sunday's poll.

■ The entire Volgograd regional Polibitrovo resigned today following three days of demonstrations and calls by tens of thousands of residents of the Volga river city that the communist leadership quit.

■ In a clear protest against a wave of Moldavian nationalism sweeping the republic 92 per cent of the city's 158,000 people took part in Sunday's poll.

At a special news conference in Moscow, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, deputy head of the Communist Party central committee ethnic relations department, said Azerbaijani "terrorists" organised themselves into what he called "flying squads" of 10 or 15 men in an "explosion" of premeditated killing in the Azerbaijani capital on Jan 14-15.

"This action was well thought out," he said.

Honecker, 77, detained but not formally arrested as he left hospital on Monday after cancer surgery, was too ill to remain in prison "at the moment," the East Berlin city court said.

Reuter photographers saw a police car and another vehicle leave East Berlin's Rummelsburg prison, used for holding people awaiting trial, shortly after the court's ruling. (Reuter) See Page 7

German unity not in doubt: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said on Tuesday the idea of German unity was not in doubt but needed careful preparation and responsibility of all sides.

The official news agency Tass said Gorbachev made his remarks to East German reporters just before he began talks in the Kremlin with East Germany's beleaguered Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

Asked for his views on the unification of the two German states, the Kremlin chief said the unity question "was not unexpected. In principle, no one put it in doubt." (Reuter) See Page 7

Digital optical processor: American Telephone and Telegraph Co said on Monday it had built the first machine that uses pulses of light rather than electricity to process information, technology which could be used to build faster computers.

The company said its invention may equip computers to handle more than 1,000 times as much information as the electronic devices used in today's supercomputers. (Reuter) See Page 4

Rebel rockets hit Kabul: Two rebel rockets hit Kabul for the second straight day on Tuesday, killing two civilians and wounding 28 others, government spokesman Mohammad Nagib said.

Two rockets hit Kabul on Monday but caused no casualties. One rocket slammed into the ground behind the deserted West German embassy and another hit the Khojabangra area. (Reuter)

The sanity trial: A third jury has been convened in the sanity trial of a Lebanese man already convicted of murdering his wife and four members of his prominent Jordanian family.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys told jurors in their opening statements on Monday that experts will give their views about the sanity of Yousef "Touf" Naddi when he killed his 26-year-old wife, Aida, her parents, a cousin and brother-in-law in June 1983. (AP)

Black man dies in police van: South African police said on Tuesday a 20-year-old black man had died in the back of a police van in Natal province and officers were investigating the possibility that he had been strangled with a shoe lace. (Reuter)

Black man dies in police van

Havel invites Arafat, offers mediation

PRAGUE, Jan 30, (AP): Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel yesterday offered to mediate peace talks between Israel and Palestinian leaders, and invited PLO leader Yasir Arafat to visit Prague, his spokesman said.

Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres visited Prague Jan 21 to discuss restoration of diplomatic ties broken off in 1967 over the six-day war, and a future visit by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Last Thursday, Havel received the PLO Ambassador to Prague, Sami Abdul Fattah, and spoke of the longing of Czechoslovakia for peace in the Middle East.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Pavlyuchenko said the Kremlin had warned Israel

Moscow would strongly oppose the use of Jewish immigrants, for dislodging Palestinians from their homeland.

(See Page 11)

Part of the problem, say industry analysts, is that it will be at least several years before technologies mature and common standards for the products are set with many other firms developing similar technologies.

But when the technology is ready, perhaps in the mid-1990s, the electronic book could become commonplace.

It will serve as a portable device that can electronically reference voluminous sources of information such as encyclopedias, Bibles or telephone directories.

The electronic book can double as an audio compact disc player, though it cannot handle moving images. With further advances in technology, it will mix text, video and audio.

Sony officials won't say when the 530 gram (19.4 ounce)

electronic book will be sold, or how much it will cost.

Sony unveils palm-sized 'electronic book'

TOKYO, Jan 30, (Reuter): Sony Corp, having reshaped lifestyles by bringing portability to recorded music and then to video, has its sights set on another medium — text — an exhibition of future technologies last week in Tokyo, the Japanese consumer electronics firm unveiled a prototype "electronic book," a palm-sized unit storing volumes of text that can be read on a tiny liquid crystal display.

"We are looking at a part of the technology of tomorrow's electronics," said Junichi Seiki, a computer industry analyst at Dataquest Japan, a market research firm.

Sony officials won't say when the 530 gram (19.4 ounce)

electronic book will be sold, or how much it will cost.

البيان

Tribes rejecting plan for autonomy

Referendum in Philippines

BAGUIO, Philippines, Jan 30. (Agencies): Mountain tribes voted today in an autonomy referendum to decide the future of a mineral-rich region in the northern Philippines and early returns showed them rejecting the plan.

Initial results showed three out of five provinces and the regional centre of Baguio appeared to spurn the government offer of self-rule for the rugged Cordillera gold mining region, polling officials said.

"No" votes also took the lead in the two other provinces where the count was closer, early returns showed.

The fiercely independent tribes of the Cordillera had long pressed for greater control over their ancestral lands, which have been gradually taken

over by gold and copper mining companies, power generating firms and loggers.

A ragged coalition of traditional politicians, civic groups, mining interests and a faction led by Conrado Balweg, a former Roman Catholic priest, and communist rebel commander, campaigned against approval of the plan.

"This is not the kind of law which fits our expression for genuine autonomy," Balweg said before the vote.

Haydee Yorac, head of the national commission on elections, said polling was largely peaceful except for two minor cases when ballot boxes were snatched.

The fiercely independent tribes of the Cordillera had long pressed for greater control over their ancestral lands, which have been gradually taken

Initial returns in the city of Baguio, 200 km (120 miles) north of Manila, showed voters rejecting the autonomy plan by three to one.

Yorac said turnout for the region was about 55 per cent. In Baguio, the turnout was below 50 per cent, other officials said.

The legislation allows a regional government to control development spending, education and cultural matters.

■ A grenade hidden in the pocket of a retarded man dancing in front of a crowd dropped and exploded, killing the man and at least seven other people in a central Philippines village, reports said today.

■ Duty nurse Abu Labra quoted one of the wounded as saying the incident took place last night in Balamban town, about 545 kilometres (340 miles) southeast of Manila on Cebu island.

■ Bandits robbed and burned a bus today and took five passengers hostage in their getaway from a village in the southern Philippines, the military reported.

The southern command said about 20 gunmen stopped the bus by shooting out its tyres as the vehicle travelled through Licom village, about 800 kilometres (500 miles) south of Manila.

■ A Philippines Air Force jet trainer crashed on a runway today, killing two crewmen, a military official said.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the T-33 thunderbird crashed several minutes after takeoff at the Bassa air base in Pampanga province, 40 miles (64 kilometres) northwest of Manila.

■ A Philippine student and his friend who admitted calling in a fake bomb threat in order to catch a flight leaving Geneva for London were being held in custody yesterday, police said.

Both suspects told interrogators they phoned the airport that a bomb was aboard flight British Airways Flight 723, which was about to leave for London's Heathrow airport, in the hope that the threats would delay the departure long enough for them to catch it.

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An ethnic Igorot tribesman of the Cordillera region casts his vote in Tuba town, Benguet province during a plebiscite for the proposed Cordillera autonomy act. (Reuter wirephoto)

'I am firmly in control'

Aquino douses rumour of polls

MANILA, Jan 30. (Reuter): President Corazon Aquino has doused speculation about an early election in the Philippines as a way out of the country's political crisis, saying it would divert attention from economic recovery efforts.

She also launched a counter-attack against critics who accuse her of weak leadership, stressing her determination to set the country back on course after the December army coup attempt which almost toppled her.

"To my detractors who dare to defy the rule of law merely to satisfy their lust for power, I say I remain firmly in control of this government and intend to do so in accordance with our constitution," Aquino said in a speech today to Japanese, American and Filipino businessmen.

"I give you this assurance that I shall continue to exercise leadership, particularly in the effective delivery of services to those who need them most," she declared.

In a statement yesterday she dampened speculation that she may endorse an early presidential election, indicating she preferred to stay on for her full term until June 1992. But she left the door open to an early poll by saying it was up to the Filipino people and congress to decide.

Four senators proposed bringing forward the date for presidential elections to November 1991, while opposition figures have called for an immediate poll following the sixth coup attempt in almost four years of Aquino's rule.

But Aquino told reporters that bringing forward the poll would be costly and time-consuming because it would involve altering the constitution and conducting a national referendum to endorse the change.

She said the greater cost, however, would be the "placing of elections and political fray at the forefront once more of the national agenda, to the detriment of the need to focus at this time on development, the economy and social reforms."

Senator Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate Defence Committee, last week proposed bringing forward presidential and congressional elections so that they did not clash with local polls also planned for May 1992.

But many political analysts had seen the suggestion as a piece of political kite-flying, either to allow Aquino to step down early or provide her a way of getting a new mandate and help undercut those behind the string of coup attempts.

Politicians and commentators, quick to see a US hand in Philippine affairs, also believed Washington was pressing her to "put her house in order" through an early poll, although Aquino has denied that recent envoys from Washington have asked her to hold a snap election.

Aquino's position has been strengthened somewhat by the capture yesterday of former Brigadier-General Edgardo Abenina, one of the masterminds of the December 1-7 coup.

"This is a big blow to them considering that (he) has been playing a significant role in the planning and co-ordination and the recruitment of (rebel) forces," armed forces chief General Renato de Villa said.

Abenina, who once commanded the strategic central Philippine military region, is the most senior of six rebel officers to have been arrested since the mutiny.

Bingo Day 8
89 4 84 34

Arms replace pens in varsity

DHAKA, Jan 30. (Reuter): Brutal force and firearms have ousted learning and logic at Bangladesh's violence-ridden university campuses but the government says there is not much it can do about it.

"Revolvers and (sub-machine) guns have replaced pens and books in Dhaka University and other campuses," Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed told Parliament last night.

Nearly 200 students have been killed in pitched campus battles between rival political groups in the last two years, he said.

Ten of them died at Dhaka University, one known as the Oxford of the East (at Dhaka) brutal force has become more powerful than logic and muscle power rules over the truth," Ahmed said.

"Political parties and their lackeys, using students as political tools, are responsible for campus violence," he said.

The ruling Jatiya Party disbanded its student wing two years ago but other parties had not followed suit, he said.

"Seeds of terrorism are being sown by vested-interest groups but we cannot watch the hara-kiri by our partners at passive onlookers," he said.

Addressing them, government alone could not halt the violence, he urged opposition parties to help restore peace to the campuses.

■ Tribal rebels shot dead six farmers in southern Bangladesh in apparent revenge killings, officials said.

The farmers were attacked yesterday while working in a rice field in the Langdanga area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, they said.

Hours earlier villagers in the same area tried to death a member of the Shanti Bahini rebel group fighting for autonomy for the hill tracts bordering India and Burma.

■ Salvage workers yesterday pulled out a broken ferry that capsized and sank with 150 passengers on board, killing at least 25 of them, officials said.

Sunday's accident in River Lohali near Patuakhali, 150 kms (90 miles) south of Dhaka, was the fourth major river disaster this month in Bangladesh.

Three of the victims were employees of the restaurant and the other, a boy, was a friend of one of the others killed, the police spokesman said.

The spokesman quoted the owner of the cafe as saying that before he left the place around midnight two men in their 20s had drinks and demanded that one of the girls go out with them for the night.

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1990

NEWS IN BRIEF

Benazir leaves hospital: Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto took her new baby daughter home early on Tuesday under heavy guard, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Benazir left the Lady Dufferin hospital, where her daughter was delivered last Thursday, just after midnight for her Karachi home, Bilawal House, the spokeswoman said.

Her husband Asif Ali Zardari held the baby as they left the hospital in a car closely guarded by dozens of police carrying automatic weapons, witnesses said.

Benazir, the first head of government to give birth while in office, is expected to rest at home for the next few days.

But when she resumes her official duties, she must grapple with a violent rebellion by Muslim rebels fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, which has plunged relations between Pakistan and India to their lowest point since Benazir took office in 1988.

Until Benazir recovers, her mother Nusrat, the senior minister, will chair cabinet meetings. (Reuter) ***

Business confidence turned to Manila: President Corazon Aquino said Tuesday business confidence has returned after last month's bloody coup attempt with new investments already reaching almost 20 per cent of this year's target.

Speaking before a gathering of businessmen, Aquino said investments in the first 23 days of this year totalled \$688 million, or 18.7 per cent of the board of investments' target of \$3.6 billion for 1990.

At least 119 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, the sixth and worst uprising against Aquino, who was swept to power in a civilian-backed military revolt that ousted her late predecessor Ferdinand Marcos. (UPI)

Gunmen kill four in Pakistan: Gunmen firing from speeding cars killed four people in the southern Pakistani city of Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Witnesses said unidentified gunmen killed two motorcyclists on the spot with a burst of gunfire from a car.

Soon after, two more people were killed in similar circumstances near a cinema, but it was not clear if the same gunmen were responsible.

City officials immediately ordered a curfew in parts of Hyderabad and deployed troops and paramilitary police with orders to shoot curfew-breakers on sight. (Reuter) ***

Nepalis protest to restore multiparty system: An estimated 100,000 supporters of Nepal's parties' "panchayat" political system marched through the capital Sunday to protest an outlawed that seeks to restore a multiparty system.

The marchers later converged at a rally at the Tundikhel open theatre in the heart of Kathmandu, where Prime Minister Man Singh Shrestha denounced the socialist-leaning Nepali Congress Party.

Last weekend, the party concluded the largest gathering by opposition group in 30 years. It adopted a resolution to start a mass movement on Feb 13 to restore "people's rights."

The meeting of 5,000 delegates, held without government interference inside a private compound, was attended by seven members of India's Parliament.

Shrestha told Sunday's rally, "it is indeed ridiculous that these (Nepali Congress) elements are inviting extraneous (foreign) intervention in the hope of forcing their version of democracy on the people when there already exists a working democracy in the country."

Shrestha said he would take legal action against Nepali Congress members. (AP) ***

Four stabbed to death in Seoul: Police sought two men Monday as suspects in the murder of four people, all teenagers, at a night spot in southern Seoul.

A police spokesman said two boys and two girls in their upper teens were found stabbed to death at a cafe in the Kuro area at about 1 am Monday (1600 GMT Sunday). There are many restaurants in the area frequented by workers of nearby factories.

Three of the victims were employees of the restaurant and the other, a boy, was a friend of one of the others killed, the police spokesman said.

The spokesman quoted the owner of the cafe as saying that before he left the place around midnight two men in their 20s had drinks and demanded that one of the girls go out with them for the night.

Kalmunai resident said shops were closed in the area, where most residents are Muslims, after the kidnapping.

The north-eastern Tamil-speaking parliamentarian forum today sent an urgent telegram today to President Ranasinghe Premadasa drawing his immediate attention to the security situation in the eastern Batticaloa and Amparai districts.

The telegram signed by the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and president of the forum, M.H.M. Ashraff, and the secretary of the forum, A. Navaratnam, has complained of the Tigers.

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Hazelwood. (Reuter wirephoto)

Exxon oil spill trial opens in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Jan 30. (AP): Former Exxon Valdez's skipper Joseph Hazelwood's attorneys lost another bid to have charges against him dismissed on the opening day of his trial in the nation's worst oil spill.

"I feel that this show should not go on, at least no here," Hazelwood attorney Dick Madson said in arguing that the New York seaman should have been charged under federal rather than state law.

Hazelwood, 43, was the captain of the Exxon Valdez when the tanker ran aground March 24, spilling nearly 11 million gallons (over 41 million litres) of north slope crude oil into Prince William Sound.

He faces a felony charge of criminal mischief and misdemeanor charges of operating a vessel while intoxicated, reckless endangerment and negligent discharge of oil. If convicted on all counts, he faces up to seven years and three months in prison and \$61,000 fines.

Superior court judge Karl Johnstone denied Madson's motion for dismissal of the charges, saying it lacked substance. Earlier defence efforts to get the indictment against Hazelwood also failed.

Madson said federal law prevails to guarantee consistent rules from port to port, regardless of which state a vessel is in.

"Federal laws and regulations have covered this field for 200 years and there's a good reason for it," he said.

Hazelwood sat in the courtroom as Johnstone dealt with preliminary matters for 90 minutes before instructing attorneys to spend the rest of the day examining standard, three-page questionnaires completed by prospective jurors.

Johnstone said he expects jury selection to take less than the two weeks attorneys in the case predicted.

Still pending is a defence motion to keep from evidence the results of a blood-alcohol test that Hazelwood failed about 10 hours after the tanker struck Bligh Reef and began spilling oil in early-morning darkness.

Cuba to jam US TV broadcasts

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 30. (UPI): Cuba's UN ambassador said yesterday that Havana will jam planned US television broadcasts to his nation and said broadcasters face serious disruptions in this so-called radio war or TV war.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada said the US government's plan to broadcast TV programme to Cuba violates international telecommunications agreements.

"It is the same as taking from us part of our land, our sea, our air space. That is why we will make it impossible," he told reporters.

"We are not creating his so-called radio war or TV war," the ambassador said.

Computerised therapy works

Depression treatment

NEW YORK, Jan 30. (AP): Depressed patients who were treated by computer during an experiment improved as much as those who consulted a human therapist, suggesting an economical treatment for a condition afflicting millions.

Computerised therapy may one day help roughly a third of people with depression if further research bears out its promise, said researcher John Greist.

Depression strikes 10 million Americans within any six-month period. Human therapists can now treat only a fraction of the number, but using computers might let them reach more, said Greist, a psychiatry professor at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison.

Computerised treatment could be provided day and night at a cost of perhaps only 50 cents an hour, he said. And unlike a human therapist, a computer "doesn't have bad days," he said.

Humans would still need to screen patients for the therapy and step in if the computer fails to treat the patient adequately, he said in a recent interview. And the therapeutic approach used in the study works best for people with only mild to moderate depression, he said.

The study compared the progress of 12 depressed people who received therapy from a computer, 12 who consulted a therapist, and 12 who received no treatment during the experiment.

The two treated groups followed a six-week course of weekly cognitive-behavioural therapy. This approach aims to correct harmful patterns in how people interpret their experiences, such as in people who habitually perceive slights and conclude that they must be disliked and worthless.

The therapist's job in this approach is fairly routine and can become repetitive, Greist said. That makes the regimen "a poor use of human beings" but a good candidate for being done by computer, he said.

Using a programme designed by co-author Paulette Selmi, a computer asked such questions as how long a person had felt depressed and which activities in a list made the person feel better. It also asked about particular symptoms and asked the person to rank the severity of his depression on a standard scale.

In this way, the computer could get "a pretty crisp idea of the nature of this person's depression," Greist said.

Responses to the computer's multiple-choice questions shaped the course of each session and future sessions.

The actual therapy included teaching basics of cognitive-behavioural therapy, testing the person's understanding of the lessons, and assigning homework. Depending on the person's problems, the homework could include such tasks as assigned reading, thinking about less damaging explanations for perceived slights, or introducing oneself to new people daily to discover that one is not always rejected.

Analysis showed that, as a group, patients who took computerised therapy improved as much as those in the other treated group, both at the conclusion of treatment and two months later. Both groups improved significantly more than the people who had received no therapy.

The study is presented in this month's issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry by Selmi, Greist and others at the university.

T. Byram Karasu, professor of psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, called the new work important.

But he cautioned that cognitive-behavioural therapy is generally less effective for depression than other strategies, including medication.

He also stressed that while computers might be useful for some aspects of psychotherapy, they cannot totally replace a human therapist. Most depressed patients are "starving for human contact," he said.



Quayle (left) points to Endara during the press conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

New poll hint

Quayle gets a sour note

KINGSTON, Jan 30. (Reuters): US Vice-President Dan Quayle, who heard Jamaica's prime minister brand the US invasion of Panama illegal, said yesterday that Panama's leaders may need to consider holding elections to gain recognition from other countries.

Quayle's three-day diplomatic mission on Panama's future ended on a sour note when Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley said he opposed the US invasion and therefore could not accept the new government in Panama.

"We exchanged views on Panama and we are friends but friends do not always agree," Manley told reporters after a meeting with Quayle.

Manley condemned former Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega as a "menace" to the region, but said his ouster violated international law.

"We made it clear ... that we do not agree with the invasion," Manley said of the US invasion.

Quayle, speaking with reporters while en route to Washington, said some type of election "is one of the things that President (Guillermo) Endara and others will have to discuss internally."

The United States has said there was no need for new elections to confirm the right of the Endara government to hold power. Noriega refused to accept the results of an election in May — which Washington believes Endara won — and remained in power until the US invasion in December.

Endara flew to Jamaica after a final round of talks in Panama City with Endara on how to rally world support for Panama.

Although several Central American countries have recognised the Endara government, few in Latin America have granted their diplomatic approval.

Endara said yesterday that banking regulations would be amended in Panama to prevent drug dealers from laundering money through the nation's banks.

"Panama's bankers want reasonable changes which don't unduly change the banking environment," Endara said through an interpreter. "They know Panama cannot continue to be the centre for ... drug dollars. We have to participate in the fight against drug trafficking."

Quayle, appearing with Endara at a news conference, praised the government's plan for reform.

"I'm impressed with Endara's willingness to move in a different direction in dealing with important issues like the laundering of drug money," Quayle said as he ended an overnight visit.

Endara said banking law modifications "are being studied," but did not detail what changes are being contemplated. He did say that many of the changes required "are not that profound."

Panama's system of confidential bank accounts, similar to that in Switzerland, has attracted more than 100 international banks, employing nearly 8,000 people.

City employee to testify Barry smoked crack: report

WASHINGTON, Jan 30. (UPI): A city employee has reached an agreement with federal prosecutors to testify he was present at a hotel when Mayor Marion Barry smoked crack cocaine, paving the way for possible perjury and felony charges against Barry, the Washington Post reported today.

The Post, quoting anonymous sources, said city employee James McWilliams finalised his plea agreement yesterday at the office of US attorney Jay Stephens, who is prosecuting Barry on misdemeanor cocaine possession charges.

McWilliams, 57, was expected to testify today before a federal grand jury investigating the

Uses light instead of electricity

Bell unveils photon computers

NEWARK, New Jersey, Jan 30. (AP): A prototype computer that processes data with light instead of electricity could be as revolutionary as the transistor that ushered in the computer age, researchers say.

The crude computer processor unveiled yesterday could lead to the development of light-based supercomputers within a decade operating a hundred times faster than current machines, said Alan Huang, head of Bell Laboratories' optical computer research department.

"This stage says it can be done," said Bob Trier, technical programme director for Research Consortium Inc. of Minneapolis, which studies high-performance computing. "The next stage is to find out what can be done with this technology."

For years researchers have been looking at photons, the fundamental particles of light, as replacements for electrons in electronic equipment. Such a shift promises computers vastly more agile and powerful than today's

machines.

The prototype data processor introduced by Bell Labs is the first to transmit information with light rather than electricity, the movement of electrons. The technique allows a much greater flow of data.

Unlike current computer chips, information can pass not just from a chip's edges but also from its surface.

The prototype is relatively primitive and can run little more than a dishwasher.

But by the end of the decade, supercomputers could be using more light, or "photonic," components than electronic, and may run at least 100 times faster than today's generation, Huang said.

"Your only limit when it comes to those things is the speed of light," said Jim Hamm, an analyst at the Sierra group computer consulting firm in Tempe, Arizona.

The prototype, contained in a 2-foot-square (60-centimetres-square) box, differs

from a true computer in that the programme that runs the optical processor is built into its hardware, rather than being contained in software, said Bell Labs spokeswoman Marj McLean. It also has limited memory, she said.

She said the processor originally took up three large lab benches. Eventually, scientists believe it can be reduced to the size of microchips or no larger than a fingernail.

Transmitting light impulses, as fibre optics do, is nothing new, but controlling them is another thing.

"They have found a way to hold a piece of light," said Trier.

The photonic computer depends on new chips that pass light impulses between each other through "lenses" that perform the function of wires, Bell Labs officials said.

Officials at American Telephone and Telegraph Co., which owns Bell Labs, likened the development to that of the transistor, which made it possible to make electronic devices smaller, sturdier and more reliable.

Noriega may go to World Court

MIAMI, Jan 30. (UPI): Manuel Noriega's lawyers plan to ask the World Court to declare him a prisoner of war, but the judge in Noriega's drug trafficking case said the former Panamanian dictator would probably be tried in Miami even if he gains PoW status.

"Just because he is found to be a prisoner of war would not rule out the government's ability to bring him to trial," US district judge William Hoeveler said yesterday.

Noriega's attorneys asked Hoeveler last Friday to relinquish jurisdiction in the case, claiming the Panamanian general is a prisoner of war and should be transferred to a neutral country. Noriega also has demanded PoW status in a letter to US President George Bush.

A US Justice Department spokesman in Washington said the government plans to submit a written response to Noriega's demands on Wednesday.

David Runkel, chief spokesman for Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, said the department "is taking a look at the legal aspects of the PoW issue" and is consulting with the State Department and the Pentagon.

Hoeveler has not ruled on the jurisdiction challenge and said he is expected to hear from the government during a status conference Thursday.

Noriega's lawyers Frank Rubino and Steve Kollin said they plan to take Noriega's prisoner-of-war request to the World Court, the judicial arm of the United Nations at The Hague in the Netherlands. They did not indicate when they might do so.

For Noriega to go free, his lawyers said, the World Court would have to accept the case, the United States would have to surrender jurisdiction and the government would have to abide by an adverse ruling.

The Bush administration insists that because Noriega is in government custody, he is subject to trial on drug-conspiracy charges in US courts. Hoeveler said he does not plan to decide if Noriega is a prisoner of war. "That's a matter for the army and the executive branch," Hoeveler said.

He said he would rule only on whether his court has jurisdiction to try Noriega.

"That is the \$64,000 question, the executive branch of the government may determine that he is a prisoner of war and prosecutors may argue that he can still be brought to trial — that Noriega is also a prisoner of the US Marshals."

Noriega's lawyers said that could not happen. Except for war crimes, PoW cannot be tried on any charges filed before his capture, Rubino said.

Noriega was moved Sunday from the courthouse basement cell, where he had been held since his arrival in Miami to the Metropolitan Correctional Center, a federal prison southwest of Miami.

His attorneys want him turned over to military custody, possibly at the nearby Homestead air force base, while he awaits transfer to an unnammed neutral country. Under the Geneva Convention, prisoners of war are not to be housed in prisons.

"We are taking the position that the Metropolitan Correctional Centre is not the proper place for a prisoner of war," Kollin said.

At the status conference Thursday, prosecutors and defence attorneys also plan to discuss a proposed March 5 trial date, which Noriega's attorneys want postponed, and the process for filing legal motions that request classified documents.

Also Monday, Hoeveler heard arguments but delayed until Thursday a decision on requests that two co-defendants be released on bond. Lt Col Luis Del Cid, 46, and Daniel Miranda, 36 face related charges in the drug trafficking case.

Hoeveler has said the trial will begin March 5. "The matters at this time are primarily factual," the judge said after the two-hour hearing. "I do want to give both parties additional thought."

Miranda, a pilot accused of transporting cocaine money from the United States, was granted a \$1 million bond two weeks ago by US magistrate Peter Palermo. The bond was immediately appealed in a move that kept Miranda in jail until Hoeveler can rule.

Del Cid, a member of the Panamanian Defence Forces and national guard, is accused of acting as a liaison and courier between Noriega and drug traffickers. Monday's hearing was the third on Del Cid's bond request.



Trying to upstage Chamorro

President Daniel Ortega (shown above left) promised to free more than 1,000 political and rebel prisoners before next month's national elections, in a move apparently aimed at upsetting his main opponent, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

"Tomorrow I will ask the National Assembly to release all these prisoners," Ortega told reporters on Monday after meeting for more than two hours with the episcopal conference of Nicaragua's 11 Roman Catholic bishops.

Ortega, who is seeking a second six-year term in the Feb 25 elections, also urged the US-supported Contra rebels to release hundreds of people the government claims have been kidnapped by the rebels.

Former US president Jimmy Carter expressed confidence on Monday that Nicaragua's elections will be fair and said he hopes a trend toward free elections will spread to other troubled nations. (Reuter wirephoto)

FDA approves new Aids drug

The US Food and Drug Administration on Monday in Washington approved the drug Fluconazole as an alternative treatment for two serious Aids-related infections.

The FDA said the new drug was approved for patients suffering:

— Cryptococcal meningitis, an inflammation of the brain and nervous system that often affects people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

— Candidiasis, a fungal infection that leads to sores in the mouth and throat estimated to affect 80 to 90 per cent of people in advanced stages of infection with the Aids virus.

Fluconazole offers an effective alternative treatment for people with Aids, cancer and other diseases whose weakened immune systems make them susceptible to cryptococcal meningitis or candidiasis. US health and human services secretary Louis Sullivan said. (UPI)

The drug lords had promised in a press release last week to hand over explosives to the government as a good will gesture leading to negotiations with the administration of President Virgilio Barco, which launched a sweeping offensive on the cartels last August.

Police arrived at the dynamited bus minutes after journalists and confirmed it had been stolen last week by unknown gunmen.

The promise to release Roberto Garcia Pena, the official kidnapped last week in Bogota, was contained in the Medellin cartel communiqué. The cartel also said Garcia Pena, the Foreign Ministry's visa section chief who served as a Colombian consul in

INTERNATIONAL

Hill has last say on bases in US

W. Europe govts react calmly

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (UPI): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney announced yesterday he is going to shut down US operations at 12 military bases abroad, many next year, and that he is considering asking the US Congress to close 35 bases in the United States.

In addition, Cheney said he will realign or withdraw some US forces from two US bases overseas over the next four years and that he is considering making similar changes to 20 bases in the United States.

All of this would be in addition to the 86 domestic base closures approved by Congress last year.

"We cannot responsibly reduce the defence budget without looking at bases and production lines," Cheney said.

Under current law, domestic military installations cannot be closed simply by Defence Department order

they must be approved by Congress. And that is seen as highly unlikely.

At a news conference, Cheney acknowledged it will be "tough" to get members of Congress, who represent voters in many of the targeted districts, to approve the domestic closures.

"I think it's a real test for Congress ... They have to resist the temptation on Capitol Hill to substitute the desire to keep open outmoded facilities back home in the district that we don't need," Cheney said.

"It is absolutely vital that Congress have the guts to make the right decisions ... so that we end up with the quality force that is essential to the security of the nation," he said.

Cheney said he sent the list of domestic base "candidates" up to Congress along with a legislative package that would give him more power to decide to shut down military bases in the United States.

"It is my expectation to fight very hard for it," he said, denying it was a political move on his part to simply portray Congress as an obstructionist in making deep defence spending cuts.

Congressional approval is not required for foreign bases, and the 14 overseas locations announced yesterday are those at which the United States will end its operations or realign or reduce its forces from fiscal 1991 through 1994.

The United States will shut down operations in late 1990 at the (Royal Air Force) RAF Fairford in Britain.

Those closing in mid-1991 will be RAF Greenham Common and RAF Wetherfield in Britain, Exocet air base and Eschir munitions storage site in Turkey, Hellenikon air base and NEA Makri Naval communications station in Greece, Comiso air base in Italy, and Kwang Ju air base and Taegu air base in South Korea.

The United States will withdraw from Suwon air base in South Korea in mid-1992 and from Zweibrücken air base in West Germany in late 1993, officials said.

The navy will partially draw down its forces at Bermuda naval air station and will realign its forces at San Miguel naval communications station in the Philippines.

Some of the larger domestic facilities that are candidates for possible closing include Fort Ord, California, Fort McClellan, Alabama, the Alameda naval aviation depot and naval air station, California, Chase Field naval air station, Texas, El Centro naval air facility, California, Moffett Field naval air station, California, Philadelphia naval station and naval shipyard, Pennsylvania, and Treasure Island naval station, California.

Large domestic facilities that are candidates for force realignment or reduction include Fort Knox, Kentucky, Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Lewis, Washington, Luke air force base, Arizona, Edwards air force base, California, McClellan air force base, California, Eglin air force base, Florida, MacDill air force base, Florida, Wright-Patterson air force base, Ohio, Tinker air force base, Oklahoma, Kelly air force base, Texas, Robins air force base, Georgia, Davis-Monthan air force base, Arizona.

In one of the largest military cutbacks in US history, Congress last year approved the closure of 86 military bases and the partial closure of five others by 1995.

They were on a "hit list" produced by the commission on base realignment and closure, appointed in May 1988 by Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci after consultation with congressional leaders.

South Korea says its defence will not be weakened by US plans to shut or scale back three bases on its territory.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said the decision would have little impact on expected talks this year on renewing US base leases, which are set to expire in 1991.

Those bases earmarked for cutbacks included the San Miguel naval communication station, one of six US installations in the Philippines.

Cheney during a press conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shot for Mars

Bush asks for money

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (AP): President George Bush asked Congress yesterday to increase the National Space Agency's 1991 budget by 17.5 percent, including money for a start on his plan to send astronauts back to the moon and, later, to Mars.

If approved by Congress, the space budget also would pay for starting the so-called "mission to planet Earth," an ambitious programme to study the Earth's environment using satellites and instruments.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration would be authorized to spend \$14.1 billion in the fiscal year beginning Oct 1, an increase of \$2.1 billion over this fiscal year.

The President's request to Congress "demonstrates the administration's continued strong support for NASA and the civil space station," NASA administrator Richard Truly said in a prepared statement.

"It reflects the President's belief that investment in space yields substantial benefits — vastly expanding scientific knowledge, developing valuable new technology and, especially important, lifting the dreams, imagination and spirit of our nation."

A major beneficiary would be the manned space station, which the United States hopes to have in orbit late in the decade. Authority for the station would increase from \$1.7 billion to \$2.4 billion as the project moves from design to the fabrication stage. The first construction flight is scheduled for the spring of 1995.

The budget request includes \$661 million in spending authority to study the Earth, including money to start two polar-orbiting platforms, the first of which would be launched in 1998. It also would initiate the development of Earth probes, a series of smaller instruments focused on specific, high-priority data needs, including ozone depletion. The first would be launched in 1994.

Last July, on the 20th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon, the President set a goal of having the United States return to the moon and then to begin manned exploration of Mars early in the next century.

The budget request reflects the first steps toward that goal in a \$179 million authority item for "exploration technology," which includes \$4.5 million for lunar and Mars science, and 11 million for nuclear propulsion studies.

President Bush on Monday pardoned America's "killer trees."

In a symbolic break with former president Ronald Reagan, who once blamed trees for air pollution, Bush's 1991 budget asks Congress for \$630 million to plant and conserve one billion trees annually.

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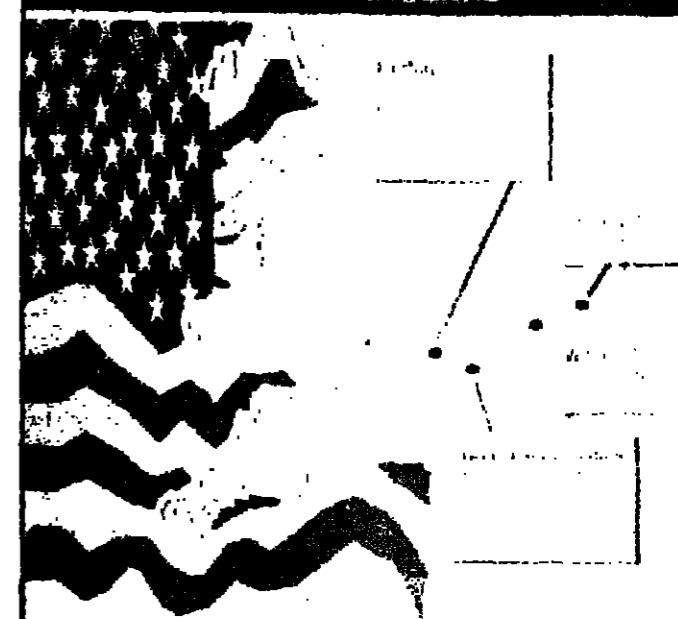
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Bush signing the fiscal year 1991 budget. (Reuter wirephoto)

CUTS AT US BASES IN ENGLAND



Graph shows the site of four bases in Britain where cuts or closings are planned. (Reuter wirephoto)

Faith is a must — Bush

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (UPI): President George Bush, saying faith has fostered democratic change around the world, told the national religious broadcasters yesterday, that "one cannot be America's president without a belief in God."

The president, accompanied by First Lady Barbara Bush, spoke at the group's annual meeting at a Washington hotel.

Bush said the values of church leaders "have been a force for democratic change" in South Africa and the Philippines.

"And, yes, in Eastern Europe, too," he said, "where for centuries faith has sustained those striving for freedom amid adversity."

Surveying the global situation, Bush said, "today, the times are on the side of peace because the world, increasingly, is on the side of God."

"For my own part," he added, "I know that this is true. For although I've been president for barely a year, I believe with all my heart that 'one cannot be America's president without a belief in God.'

In touching on a series of issues of concern to fundamentalist Christians, Bush reiterated his position on such matters as church-state child care, abortion and prayer in the schools.

"I will not see the option of religious-based child care restricted or eliminated," he said.

Saying "many Americans disagree" on abortion, Bush said, "for my part, let me be clear. I support the sanctity of life. We need policies that encourage adoption, not abortion."

The local control replied, "slow him to 180 knots and I will take him."

In the second such case, police have found another victim of last week's Avianca jet crash who apparently was trying to smuggle cocaine into the country by swallowing it before boarding the flight in Colombia, authorities said today.

Wrong word too costly

Avianca pilot said priority instead of emergency

MELVILLE, New York Jan 30, (AP): Avianca Flight 52's declaration of a fuel shortage was relayed from regional traffic controllers to controllers handling its approach, but the urgency of the warning wasn't clear, authorities said yesterday.

The controllers were not told by the pilot that there was an emergency. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Fred Farrar said from Washington.

Farrar said the word used was "priority," which "has no particular meaning in air traffic control. If there is an emergency, use the word 'emergency.' The FAA report conflicts with information provided Sunday night by the John Nance, a former Braniff pilot.

Inspection of the crash site on a wooded hillside was nearly complete Monday, and investigators focused on conversations of the crew and controllers.

The investigators said tapes show the crew warned a regional control centre that it was low on fuel about 45 minutes before the crash.

The jet flew in weather-related holding patterns totalling nearly 90 minutes before the emergency as it flew from Colombia to New York City's John F. Kennedy airport.

"We think we may need priority," a crew member told the control centre, according to preliminary transcripts, Farrar said.

A regional controller replied, "how long can you hold before you have to go to your alternate or take off on the emergency side?"

"Wait a minute," the cockpit replied, pausing apparently to check, the FAA said. "We can hold five minutes."

The FAA said the regional controller telephoned the control centre that handles approaches and departures for Kennedy.

The regional controller said Avianca 52 had just come out of the holding area "and can only do five more minutes of hold. Can you take him now?"

The local control replied, "slow him to 180 knots and I will take him."

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Mandela may relax terms for release

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 30, (AP): The government is considering delaying Nelson Mandela's release from prison because of concerns about current unrest, newspapers said yesterday.

An aide to Mandela, meanwhile, said the black leader would continue his anti-apartheid fight if substantial reforms are not made, even if it means spending more time in custody.

But some top leaders of the African National Congress suggested during a visit to Norway that Mandela would accept a release from prison even if certain conditions were not met.

Mandela has been in prison since 1962 and is serving a life term for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government.

Several newspapers reported yesterday that the white-led government was considering delaying Mandela's release until at least March because of renewed unrest, including protests against a tour of English cricket players defying a ban on sports contacts with South Africa.

Police yesterday fired tear gas at a Roman Catholic church to break up a gathering of about 1,000 people, who were planning a protest against the English cricket squad.

Organiser Paul Ntuli said dozens of people suffered minor injuries in the clash at the church near the central city of Bloemfontein. Police confirmed the incident but declined to provide any details.

Inflamed

Government leaders were concerned that unrest might be inflamed by Mandela's release and by pending reforms, the reports said, citing unidentified sources.

Meanwhile, police used batons and tear gas to disperse more than 1,000 black railway workers following a union meeting in downtown Johannesburg. No injuries or arrests were reported.

The workers, some armed with clubs, danced and chanted in the streets following a discussion of a 12-week strike that was settled Saturday. More than 35 people died in violence related to the strike.

South African media have been awash in speculation on when Mandela might be released and the issue is dominating political life.

The Star reported yesterday afternoon that no decision had been made on when to release Mandela and the decision would be left to President FW de Klerk. The newspaper also said that De Klerk had not set a release date because he did not want to meet demands that the government legalise the outlawed African National Congress, the main black anti-government group.

De Klerk is expected to outline government reforms in a speech Friday at the opening of the new session of parliament. He has said he wants to dismantle apartheid.

9 held

Cannibals

FREETOWN, Jan 30, (Reuters): Sierra Leone police said yesterday they had arrested nine people for the ritual murder and cannibalism of a 15-year-old girl over the weekend.

The girl was killed and part of her body was cooked and eaten in a ceremony aimed at helping a candidate to win a local council, Sam Turay, police chief in the country's Moyamba district, told reporters.

Belief in Juju magic is common in many areas of West Africa.

Pope renews help Africa appeal

Don't be demoralised, Pontiff advises

BOBO-DIOULASSO, Burkina Faso, Jan 30, (Reuters): Pope John Paul today renewed an impassioned plea to the world to help Africa and told some of the continent's poorest people not to be demoralised by their misfortune.

"I passionately call on all the world to support you who know the weight of poverty," the Pope told crowds who turned out for a mass at this dusty railway town in western Burkina Faso.

"I also ask you not to be discouraged," he added.

The pontiff, nearing the end of a tour of poverty-stricken sub-Saharan Africa, believes it is an act of divine providence that he has been given the chance of reviving interest in Africa at a time when it risks being forgotten because of turmoil in Eastern Europe.

The Pope travelled from the capital, Ouagadougou, to a hero's welcome in predominantly Muslim Bobo-Dioulasso after making a similar appeal yesterday to the world to cast aside fratricidal indifference and help Africa.

The Sahel region, one of the poorest in the world, has been brought to its knees by two decades of drought and the creeping advance of the Sahara desert.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls quoted the Pope as telling local bishops last night

that he could not have died in peace without launching his appeal to the world's conscience.

"If I had not done this I would not have been able to die in peace," he said.

Though mainly Muslim, thousands of cheering and dancing people in Bobo-Dioulasso welcomed the Pope as he was driven in his bullet-proof car from the airport to a mass held at the old colonial railway station.

About 30,000 people packed the square in front of the station and lined approach roads. A large sign at the station read: "Welcome to the Pope, leader of the Vatican and friend of the Sahel."

Many people climbed trees on the edge of the square and a sea of hands waved as the Pope saluted the crowd.

A choir dressed in costumes bearing the Pope's image chanted to drum music and brandished whisks traditionally used to frighten away evil spirits. Local people brought foundation stones for 10 new churches to be blessed by the pontiff.

In his homily, delivered under a blazing sun, the Pope called for Christian co-operation and dialogue with traditional religions and Muslims.

The local Muslim leader, Mama Sanou, told reporters: "There has been solidarity between our religions for so long."

Township life brought to world stage

Ngema wins accolades

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 30, (Reuters): Music, dance and politics provide the pulse of life in the South African townships where Mbongeni Ngema grew up.

Ngema, 34, has brought those same elements to stages around the world and earned himself a host of awards.

The latest accolade is a nomination for a Grammy — the US music industry's highest award — for the soundtrack of his musical "Sarafina", now playing to capacity audiences in the United States and Europe.

"Sarafina" follows a high school girl who gives the musical its title and her class during the 1976 education riots in South Africa's biggest township, Soweto. About 600 students died in clashes with police during that year.

The musical, set to "Mbaqanga" music, the brashive of the townships, has already won five nominations for Tony Awards, Broadway's equivalent of the Oscars.

But despite his international profile, Ngema's feet remain firmly planted in the environment which inspired his stage success.

"I was very honoured," he told Reuters following the announcement of the Grammy nomination.

"Even though I travel so much around the world, in the end I always come back here and live my own humble life in the township, where things like the Grammys and the Tonys are not in our vocabulary," he said.

Ngema traces his fortunes to a childhood when music was an important part of family life.

"We had a band at home and my father was a guitarist. He had no formal training, but he was a country boy who grew up in the rural areas of Zululand where most people can play guitar."

Ngema followed in his father's footsteps, but trying to make a living from the guitar was by no means easy.

Being a musician in the townships means that you play your instrument and you might not have a place to sleep, food to eat. That's what my life was like," he said.

The progression from musician to actor came by accident. Ngema, then 19, was in the backing band for a township musical when an actor dropped out of a performance.

"I volunteered to take part and from that point on



Ngema pictured before a poster advertising his musical "Sarafina". The soundtrack of the show, currently touring the US and Europe, has been nominated for the Grammy award. (Reuters wirephoto)

everybody encouraged me to go on acting," he said.

From acting, Ngema turned to writing his own material which led to a big break when he and a friend, Percy Mitwa, took their homespun review to Johannesburg's market theatre, a multiracial arts complex which has promoted some of South Africa's best theatrical and artistic talent.

Established director Barney Simon helped them to refine and rehearse and the show became a huge success.

Ngema then wrote and directed "Asinamali" (we have no money). The word was the rallying cry of a bitter protest against 1983 government cuts increases in black townships.

The musical went to Broadway, but not before it had come up before the South African cen-

sors.

"We had a court case, they wanted to censor some scenes," said Ngema. But he argued that the scenes in question, one of which dealt with police informers, were based on fact. He won the case.

Ngema is not prepared to compromise. "I only do what I believe in," he said.

"There are records of mine that are not released in this country because record companies are afraid to use the material. My latest album "Time to Unite" is released everywhere in the world except for South Africa."

"Ngema makes no apology for the political content of his musicals and was dismissive of a New York critic who said that setting traumatic events like the 1976 riots to music undermined their importance.

The awards ceremony was held on Jan 17 in Lhasa, where Buddhist monks have staged a series of violent protests since September, 1987, demanding independence from China.

The demonstrations were supported by hostile forces abroad, planned and organised," the Tibet Daily said.

In a rare omission, the newspaper did not attack the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader who has been accused frequently by China of fomenting the unrest from across the border in India.

The "Dalai Lama" who led Tibet in 1959 during a mass uprising that failed to oust the Chinese, was awarded the Nobel peace prize last October for his "non-violent" struggle for Tibetan independence.

His award led to celebrations and renewed demonstrations in the streets of Lhasa.

The Tibet Daily carried a speech made at the awards ceremony by an artillery commander who said he helped break up a protest march of more than 1,000 Tibetans led by five Buddhist monks on October 25.

"I didn't hesitate for a moment. Taking three men we plunged into the ranks of the demonstrators. With my left hand and right I grabbed two of the leading monks, quickly dragged them from the scene and immediately organised troops to break up the demonstration," commander Liang Jian said.

"After almost 20 minutes of fighting, by noon, this riot was quelled before it could develop," he added.

He did not say how many people were injured or arrested.

Chinese sources said that despite the hardline rhetoric, attempts behind the scenes to arrange negotiations between Beijing and the Dalai Lama were continuing.

Meanwhile authorities are preparing to replace the president of one of China's leading law schools for being overly sympathetic to his students during last spring's protest movement, Chinese and Western sources said today.

Rescuers still were looking for one woman believed buried in the debris, he said.

Jayapura is about 3,000 kilometres (1,875 miles) northeast of the provincial capital of Jayapura, a spokesman for the government's office said.

Jiang Ping, the liberal

president of China Politics and Law University in Beijing, had originally expressed a wish to step down from his post last summer but was persuaded not to by students, the sources said.

They said conservative ideologues are critical of Jiang for being too lenient with large numbers of students who demonstrated in last spring's protest.

It is difficult to forecast exactly what is going to happen next month's elections," said Michitoshi Takabatake, politics professor at Rikkyo University.

"But one thing is certain: Women have remained angry and bitter against the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). They don't easily forget the Recruit (shares-for-favours) scandal and the sales tax," he said.

With its inept introduction of the three per cent sales tax,

Recruit and the sex indiscretions of the ephemeral Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, the party managed to outrage most

US urged to grant passports

HK residents working for American firms

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (AP): British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd yesterday urged the United States to grant US passports to Hong Kong residents who work for US companies, to help smooth the colony's transition from British to Chinese rule.

Many Hong Kong residents have been fleeing on the assumption that China will not let them leave after it takes over in 1997.

The new plan is intended to assure Hong Kong residents of their security by giving them US passports should they wish to

leave, Hurd told reporters after lunching with Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

Hurd said he also "mentioned" the idea in a later Oval Office meeting with President George Bush. "The President did not react," he told reporters outside the White House.

Hurd said it was "not because we are internationalising the problem; not at all. The political future of Hong Kong is a matter between us and China ... but I did suggest to Mr Baker and mentioned to the President that it would be helpful."

Hurd said that if Hong Kong residents holding key positions leave the territory, stability could not be maintained during the complicated transition period.

He said he told Baker that "it would be enormously helpful" if the United States provided pass-

ports to Hong Kong residents working for US firms.

The subject will come up again today when Hurd holds talks with members of Congress, where legislation is pending for such a measure.

Hurd said he had appealed to Baker for US understanding of his government's handling of more than 40,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong.

The British want to send most of the Vietnamese home, but the United States wants a one-year suspension of the forced repatriation to Vietnam.

Troops honoured for suppressing Tibetans

More than 400 Chinese get medals

BELJING, Jan 30, (Reuters): Chinese authorities in Tibet have held a mass meeting to award more than 400 medals to police and troops who suppressed repeated demonstrations by Tibetan nationalists, an official report said.

Security forces have opened fire on several occasions, killing scores of people. Martial law was imposed on Lhasa and thousands of troops brought in last March after three days of riots and clashes with police.

The Tibet Daily said 323 "advanced individuals" and 92 "advanced groups" were commended at the ceremony presided over by regional Communist Party leader Hu Jintao.

"These revolts and riots ... are a serious political struggle aimed at splitting the motherland, opposing the Communist Party and overthrowing the socialist system," the newspaper said in its January 18 edition, which reached Beijing today.



Snow-bound

BELJING residents visiting the Forbidden City yesterday stand talking in the snow against the layers of tiled roofs outside the former Imperial Palace. (Reuters wirephoto)

Don't go, Japan tells US

TOKYO, Jan 30, (UPI): Japan welcomed a proposed reduction in US defence spending today as a step towards peace but urged the United States to maintain its strong military presence in Asia to assure stability in the troubled region.

"With this the United States has put itself on the road to disarmament and detente," said Japan's Defence Agency chief Jiro Matsumoto. "It is a turning point in the American attitude towards defence."

The Japanese Defence Agency argues the reduction of tension in Oceania has not reached Asia and, consequently, has sought to continue Japan's defence buildup.

"US forces in Asia have protected Japan in the decades since World War II, allowing Japan to keep its defence budgets to a minimum."

"Postwar Japan and Korea have never known an Asia without the United States," said a Defence Agency official who asked not to be identified.

"If these cuts lead to a major US pullout, we will have to reevaluate what is the appropriate level of defence to protect our nation," the official said.

"It is difficult to imagine Asia without the US military," he continued. "The US presence is indispensable in Asia."

Other Japanese officials voiced their expectation the cuts in US defence spending would not mean a general pullback from the US military mission in Asia.

With the \$29 billion defence budget approved by the government last month, Japan will be able to accomplish its mid-term military buildup programme. March 1991 as scheduled, Defence Agency officials said.

Women seek vengeance

Fury over Japanese sex scandals

TOKYO, Jan 30, (Reuters): Last time angry Japanese women flexed their political muscles they humbled the ruling party, but analysts doubt that even their mass protest at Feb 18 lower house elections will be able to shake the party's 34-year hold on power.

It was women's fury over financial and sex scandals and an ideological shift that sparked the July 1989 voter revolt that saw the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lose control of the upper house of parliament.

Analysts said the found female voters still furious despite LDP efforts to placate them in the run-up to next month's crucial election.

But a combination of a split opposition, a complex electoral system and apparent male reluctance this time to back the ruling party squeaking back, either by winning a bare majority itself or by recruiting conservative independent.

"It is difficult to forecast exactly what is going to happen next month's elections," said Michitoshi Takabatake, politics professor at Rikkyo University.

"But one thing is certain: Women have remained angry and bitter against the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). They don't easily forget the Recruit (shares-for-favours)

INTERNATIONAL

Romania ex-aides try to shift blame

BUCHAREST, Jan 30, (Agencies): The trial of four leading aides of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was adjourned today to allow prosecution and defence lawyers to call more witnesses.

The trial, which opened on Saturday, will be resumed on Thursday. Colonel Adrian Nitou, president of the military tribunal, ruled.

Former interior minister Tudor Postelnicu, 58, former Communist Party secretary Emil Bobu, 62, Manea Manea, 73, and Ion Dinca, 61, the former deputy president and vice premier, are all accused of complicity in genocide. They face life imprisonment if convicted.

They have been accused of supporting orders from Ceausescu, who was toppled and executed last month, to shoot protesters during anti-government demonstrations in December.

Colonel Cornelius Pitcalabescu, commander of the paramilitary patriotic guard, testified today that Defence Minister General Vasile Milea committed suicide in his office after Ceausescu had called him a traitor and coward for refusing to order his troops to fire on demonstrators on Dec 21.

Milea's death resulted in the army joining anti-Ceausescu forces and backing the National Salvation Front which took over the country after the dictator's overthrow and arrest.

Other witnesses said they had seen Postelnicu beating up protesters including women. Postelnicu denied the allegation.

Hours before Ceausescu was toppled from power, the Communist Party chief told an emergency politburo meeting that Milea was a traitor and had committed suicide.

Recalling that final meeting, Bobu told the tribunal yesterday "my intimate opinion is that the organisation of the assassination of Gen. Milea was made by the traitor Ceausescu."

Bobu recalled that Ceausescu had threatened at an earlier politburo meeting to put Milea "in front of a firing squad" because he tried to oppose an order to shoot demonstrators in the western city of Timisoara where the revolution began.

On Saturday, Dinca testified that Milea told Ceausescu Dec 17 that he had reviewed military regulations and he "didn't find anywhere that the armed forces should shoot the people."

Dinca, returning to the stand briefly yesterday, said he believed all four defendants had agreed at the time with Ceausescu's orders to shoot the demonstrators because they wanted to save their jobs.

Postelnicu also testified he did not have control over the hated Securitate secret police, despite allegations. He said he only was given control of the border guards two weeks before the revolution after famed Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci managed to escape to the West.

Postelnicu said the Securitate were commanded by Mrs Ceausescu "and partially by Ceausescu." He did not elaborate.

Regrets

Bobu, 62, formerly the third man in Ceausescu's communist hierarchy, sobbed as he expressed regret for his past on the second day of the proceedings, Romania's first public trial of top Ceausescu henchmen.

"My behaviour was contemptible," Bobu said, frequently wiping tears from his eyes with a white handkerchief. "I will regret what I have done till the end of my life."

Now I'm facing a military tribunal myself and I'm sure I shall be condemned and justly so," the silver-haired Bobu said, his voice breaking as he recalled his days as a military justice officer in the 1950s.

Monday's tribunal session, held as thousands of demonstrators massed in support of the provisional government in Bucharest, produced other revelations about the final days of Ceausescu's 24 years in power and the assets of some of its top officials.

The Swiss government said today it had to provisionally return as incomplete a Romanian request for aid in tracing funds reportedly hidden in Switzerland by Ceausescu.

Timisoara 'mass grave' had bodies legally buried

PARIS, Jan 30, (Reuter): The supposed mass grave uncovered in the Romanian city of Timisoara during last month's revolution was a manifestation of mass psychosis not mass murder, a Romanian expert was quoted today as saying.

The bodies in the grave, which were decomposed and bore no traces of bullet wounds, had been legally buried — not shot and buried by the Securitate secret police on Dec 17 as the shocked population believed, professor Milos Dressler of the Timisoara district morgue said.

Dressler told the Paris daily *Le Figaro* in Timisoara that the 20 or 50 bodies unearthed at the Paupers' Cemetery were among 64 unclaimed bodies of vagrants, indigents

and babies.

They had been buried in three common graves at the cemetery between Jan 1 and Dec 19 last year. Many of them bore autopsy scars.

He said the number now known to have been killed when troops and police fired on demonstrators was not 4,000 as reported but less than 100.

Dressler said there was no doubt the Securitate had tried to hide evidence of the massacre, prompting a general public search for bodies.

"At the Pauper's Cemetery people were seen scrabbling at freshly-dug earth with their bare hands. That's how they came across the common graves."

Reds change colour but prospects bleak

WARSAW, Jan 30, (Reuter): Poland's communists have hauled down the red flag and changed their name to Social Democrat but they know it may be years before the left wins votes in a dramatic Poland.

Two Social Democratic groups emerged from a congress that disbanded the Polish United Workers Party (PUWP) at the weekend but neither has much chance of winning popular support and one faces a further split.

Tadeusz Fiszbach's small Social Democratic Union of the Polish Republic

(SDUPR) walked out of the congress early to sever all ties with the old PUWP. Fiszbach is backed by Solidarity, which took government power from the communists in elections last year, but he lacks popular appeal.

The bigger Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland (SDRP) has a more charismatic leader in Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former youth and sports minister, but it includes communist officials and hardliners who are anathema to voters.

State TV said briefly that Kwasniewski's party was just the old Communist

Party under a new name.

"At 1 am today the PUWP ceased to exist and red flags came down from atop its buildings," a television report on the Congress said.

"But the SDRP is a continuation of the PUWP because it wants to take over its property and because we will see the same people as before among its activists."

To Kwasniewski's relief, hardliners are threatening to walk out of the SDRP, but he has no illusions about the future.

"Public trust is essential for every party

but this is very difficult for us," Kwasniewski told a news conference. "It is hard for us or for any other left-wing group that emerges."

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki warned today that chaos in reforming East bloc countries could strengthen the communist old guard and delay creation of a new political order.

"In some countries the supporters of the old regime are no longer in a position to determine the course of events but they can still impede it," he told the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe.



Poland's new Social Democratic Party leaders Kwasniewski (right) and Leszek Miller give victory salute after their election victories



An ethnic Albanian throws a stone at police during clashes in Kosovo. (Reuter wirephoto)



Armed police walk along a railway line following clashes with ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. (Reuter wirephoto)

Albanian-Serb clashes feared

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Jan 30, (Reuter): Mobs of Christian Serbs and Muslim Albanians faced each other across a cordon of no police today in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo, where 16 people have died in riots.

Witnesses said police moved in to prevent clashes between ethnic Albanian and Serbian communities in Mongolia, about 40 km (25 miles) south of the Kosovo capital, Pristina.

The situation threatened to develop into the first inter-ethnic clash after a week of battles between police and Albanians who are demanding free elections and the resignation of Kosovo's Serb-controlled leaders, the witnesses said.

The potentially explosive situation in Mogila, and new demonstrations by thousands of Albanians throughout Kosovo, came one day after Yugoslavia's federal leaders appealed for an end to bloodshed in the province.

Kosovo, a part of Yugoslavia's biggest republic Serbia, has been torn for decades by tensions between its 1.7 million mostly Muslim ethnic

and babies.

They had been buried in three common graves at the cemetery between Jan 1 and Dec 19 last year. Many of them bore autopsy scars.

He said the number now known to have been killed when troops and police fired on demonstrators was not 4,000 as reported but less than 100.

Dressler said there was no doubt the Securitate had tried to hide evidence of the massacre, prompting a general public search for bodies.

"At the Pauper's Cemetery people were seen scrabbling at freshly-dug earth with their bare hands. That's how they came across the common graves."

German unity is not in doubt: Gorbachev**Court rejects govt bid to keep Honecker behind bars**

MOSCOW, Jan 30, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today the idea of German unity was not in doubt but he called for the issue to be resolved responsibly by East and West and "not on the streets."

Gorbachev made his remarks, the closest he has yet come to accepting the idea of reunification, to East German reporters just before he began talks in the Kremlin with East Germany's beleaguered Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

Asked for his view on the possibility that the two German states

"Time itself is pressing on this process, giving dynamism to it," Gorbachev declared in clear acceptance that there was mounting pressure in the two Germanies for moves towards reunification.

But in an apparent appeal to West Germany and to the increasingly organised opposition parties and groupings in the East, he declared: "It is necessary to act responsibly and not decide this important question on the streets."

The communist-dominated government, meanwhile, suffered a setback in its bid to jail former leader Erich Honecker when a judge rejected its request to keep him behind bars until his trial in March.

The chief prosecutor's office appealed yesterday's decision by an East Berlin court. A spokesman said Honecker would go free today if the ruling stands.

Honecker was arrested and jailed yesterday upon his release from an East Berlin hospital, where he had a malignant kidney tumor removed Jan 8.

The communists' fervour in prosecuting past leaders and embracing popular causes comes amid a worsening economy, a continued flood of emigration to the West and a surge in protests.

The government has moved up the promised elections from May to March 18 to placate the opposition. It will also overhaul the current interim cabinet to include opposition members.

The party, trying to win some support so it can gain a foothold in a new elected government, for the first time today acknowledged German unity as a long-term goal, but said it must be part of the process of overcoming Europe's overall divisions.

Modrow flew to the Soviet capital after agreeing to form a "national unity" government in East Berlin with no party affiliation and calling elections, in which the long-ruling communists are likely to be swept aside, for March.

The agreement, after difficult negotiations with the opposition, was made against a background of massive street demonstrations in East German cities in support of reunification.

In private, Moscow officials monitoring developments in the countries of the former Soviet bloc said they recognised that the impetus towards a merger of the two was now so strong that it was almost certain to prevail.

U.S. praises E. German election action: The State Department on Monday praised East Germany's decision to move up national elections to March and cautioned the interim rulers of Romania against "backsliding from the country's move toward democracy."

Privately, US officials were relieved that the East German government had decided not to wait until May 6 to hold the elections. They had rated the communist government's chances of surviving until then as no better than 50-50.

Those chances may have been improved by the parallel decision in East Berlin to form a coalition government until the March 18 elections with opposition elements, a move that effectively ends the communists' domination. (AP)

Hungarians to protest price increases: More than 20,000 demonstrators chanting "we're fed up" rallied in front of the Hungarian Parliament Monday to demand pay raises and to protest price hikes in foodstuffs and public transport.

"We do not want to use our final weapon, the general strike, but we are not ruling it out either," said Sandor Nagy, general secretary of the official Central Trade Union Federation, which helped organise the protest.

About 4,000 demonstrators later marched to the television headquarters to demand their views be broadcast, the official MTI news agency reported.

The demonstration followed a series of price increases earlier this month, part of a government plan to trim the budget deficit at the market price. Meat prices rose 22 per cent, dairy products 42 per cent, bread 20 per cent and cigarettes and liquor more than 20 per cent. On Thursday, public transport fares will go up 55 per cent. (AP)

Hungary wants to join Council of Europe: Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth told the 23-nation Council of Europe on Monday that his country wants to join all European institutions.

He said Hungary attached "great importance to the... integration of Hungary into Europe."

He also said his country would "like to join the new European set of values by terminating all kinds of conflict with other peoples, ethnic groups and minorities."

He said he hoped the council would admit Hungary as a full member this year in view of the "ongoing historic changes in our country and the broadening contacts" between Hungary and the Council of Europe. (AP)

Armenian President's office bugged: Sophisticated eavesdropping devices have been found in Armenian President Karabek Menem's office and on telephone at his official residence, security chief Brig. Andras Antonietti said on Monday.

Security officers spent the weekend searching government house and found "not a few high-tech equipment microphones hidden in the most incredible places, including the office of President Menem," Antonietti told a news conference.

"We even found some in the flower pots" in several internal patios in the century-old building, Antonietti said. (AP)

Stealth technology fitted to F-16s: New equipment has been fitted to American-built F-16 fighter planes in the US and Dutch air forces to help them elude enemy radar, the British magazine Jane's Defence Weekly said.

Photographs of the aircraft with gold-coloured cockpit canopies that scatter radar energy prove the F-16s have the so-called Stealth technology, making them harder to detect, Jane's reported in its latest issue. (Reuter)

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Some opposition leaders reject this idea outright, arguing that they do not want to be responsible for the chaos caused by four decades of communist rule, while others have suggested they might participate in such an interim cabinet.

Mladov was at his most forthright in criticising the rule of Zhivkov, who has been arrested on charges of misappropriation of state property, inciting ethnic hostility and grave abuse on power.

Many of the 2,700 delegates cheered when Mladov rejected the opposition calls, insisting they be held "not later than May."

Mladov appeared to try to exploit divisions within the still weak opposition by reiterating calls for a new "government of national concord" before the May elections.

Some opposition leaders reject this idea outright, arguing that they do not want to be responsible for the chaos caused by four decades of communist rule, while others have suggested they might participate in such an interim cabinet.

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Nationally known and respected as a tough career politician, Lafontaine is expected to be a strong opponent as Kohl bids for a third four-year term as the West German leader.

Sunday's vote in Saarland was an unexpected strong endorsement for Lafontaine's entry into national politics, as the Social Democrats widened its absolute majority in the state parliament.

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The 46-year-old Saarland governor handed Kohl the latest in a string of local setbacks. The Free Democrats, Kohl's centrist partner in the governing Bonn coalition, also lost seats.

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On the cards

Media welcomes assurances of dialogue

Parliament revival excesses criticised

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Kuwaiti newspapers today welcomed government assurances of continued dialogue on revival of parliamentary life in the country and agreed that the hoped-for dialogue would be torpedoed if approached with defiance and clamour.

Four dailies devoted their editorials to comment on yesterday's meeting between chief editors of the Kuwaiti press and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah who has reiterated the need for thoughtful dialogue between the rulers and the ruled.

One Arabic daily said the dialogue could lead nowhere without good faith and keen desire to shield the country against the impact of violent political changes.

Criticising "excesses" to which some quarters went in pressing for resurrection of parliamentary life, the paper said that Kuwait has a peculiar structure and must

not necessarily emulate other models of democracy.

Pointing out that Kuwait's parliamentary experiment has previously exposed the country to "shake-ups and crises", the paper said revival of the same experience would not be a goal in itself.

"The important thing is that there should be agreement on some controls that prevent (the parliament) from slipping into bickering, fanning of feuds and resurrection of tribal and religious divisions," the paper concluded.

Another Arabic daily in an editorial entitled "We all want this dialogue" said HH the Crown Prince's new call for dialogue indicated that the dispute, if any, between the leadership and the people is "marginal" and should not block the desired end.

But it joined the first daily in referring to "rules and controls" for the proposed

dialogue as to ensure that it would be a process of persuasion and exchange of thoughts.

Another daily said the search for a formula of dialogue "calls for high seriousness on the part of all in the process of exploration."

Championing the political leadership's advocacy of prudent and extensive dialogue before resolution of parliamentary life, the paper said:

"Discovering something on which the entire national life would depend on has to be debated in an atmosphere where argument and patriotism win."

The paper warned, however, that revival of parliament cannot be achieved by skipping the factors that led to the dissolution of the old one.

It suggested a wiser approach this time and stressed that "democracy can never be a threat in a country where problems are

discussed and debated with understanding to solve them."

A third Arabic daily said the dialogue the country is experiencing must not be reduced to a hollow discussion where loud shouts could prevail.

Apparently referring to recent rallies, the paper said in an editorial the "alien" atmosphere engulfing Kuwait is a testimony that some have failed to learn the lesson from the past parliamentary life experiment in Kuwait.

Continued defiance could lead "to more than a confrontation and this could be the most serious menace to Kuwait at this important and grave stage of its march," the paper warned.

Calling for a wiser approach, it added "Let's turn a new page through the gate of objective and meaningful dialogue... towards the appropriate parliamentary formula."



Capital Scout Camp opened

The Education Minister, Anwar Al Nouri, opened the 44th Scouts Camp for the Capital Educational Area, Sunday. The opening was attended by the Ministry of Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodhar, the Assistant Undersecretary for Information and Student Affairs, Abdul Mehsin Al Saeed, the Director of Capital Educational Area, Khaled Al Salmahim, and a number of high-ranking officials and parents. The opening included several entertainment and musical activities in addition to programmes explaining the harm of narcotics.

Parents also participated during the opening fest-

ivities and praised the efforts exerted by officials in this field.

The minister hoped that the camp will benefit all students and teachers. He added that next year will witness a unified camp ground for all educational areas. The ministry was forced to hold a separate camp for each educational area this year due to the inadequate geographic location of the proposed unified camp.

Scouting activities are very essential to the educational process, Nouri pointed out.

French magazine highlights Kuwait's progress in 30 years

PARIS, Jan 30, (Kuna): As the 29th National Day approaches, an Arab-affairs monthly magazine today highlighted the rich history and vast progress achieved by Kuwait as well as preparations to enter the 21st century.

"What else are the Kuwaitis dreaming of when their present surpasses fiction and in 30 years they achieved work of three hundred years," the monthly "Arabes" said in an article written by Arab affairs expert Paul Balla.

The magazine shed light on the history of Kuwait from the Dilmun Civilization that dominated the Gulf region in the third century before Christ and through

the visit of Alexander the Great in 326 AD.

It added the history of Kuwait and its isle of Failaka following the Abbasid era, which is marked by the arrival of the Portuguese who built forts on the island and on the land in the sixteenth century.

Chronology

The magazine article also gave chronology of the ruling Amirs of Kuwait, starting with Sheikh Sabah Bin Jaber who founded Kuwait in 1756.

It explained the difficult living conditions in pre-oil Kuwait, noting that many men were lost to the waters of the gulf on their trade and pearl-diving voyages.

From the courts

Suspended sentence for doctor

THE Court of Higher Appeal reduced the sentence passed by the Court of Misdeemours against a doctor for causing the accidental death of a patient.

Dr Alaa from Jahra Hospital was accused of administering an injection to a patient which was alleged to contain a detergent.

The court was told that the patient was rushed to the hospital suffering from diarrhoea. To conduct a coloured X-ray test, the doctor administered what he thought was the appropriate injection.

According to sources, the doctor had ordered for the injection to be brought from the pharmacy of the hospital. As it was delayed he personally went to bring it and met the orderly coming in with a bottle which he believed to be what he had ordered. Unfortunately, it contained detergent. The patient died the next day.

However, considering the mitigating circumstances, the Court of Higher Appeals reduced the original sentence from two years to six months imprisonment — which was ordered to be a suspended sentence.

The criminal court has sentenced one M.S. to seven years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation on the charge of attempting to assault a child. The court heard that the child went to a charity society with his relative. The defendant met him there and asked the victim to visit the cassettes shop. When the child came to the shop, the defendant embraced him and touched his body. The child resisted him and shouted for his relative. The defendant released him immediately.

The child further said that his uncle gave him money to buy sweets from the canteen of the society in which the defendant was working. When he went there, the defendant embraced him again but released him when the child began shouting again.

Camels sold for record sum in Oman

MUSCAT, Jan 30, (AP): Twelve Arabian racing camels have been sold for a national record total of 198,747 rials (\$513,000) at Bidiya in Eastern Oman. Bidiya Gov. Khaled Al Yahya said yesterday.

Each camel had won regional races staged annually in Oman's Sharqiya province, Yahya said. He did not name the buyers.

Camel racing is a popular spectator sport in Oman and the rest of the Arabian peninsula countries.

Racing camels can sell for as high as \$500,000 each in the Gulf region.

Bride dowries are still calculated in camels by tribesmen in some of the regions.

Oystermen bemoan drop in prices

A NUMBER of oyster catchers have complained of the drop in the sales of oysters during the present time, even though diving for oysters in cold weather is difficult due to increasing cramps, they added.

One of the oystermen, Abdul Aziz Bu Azzouz said that oysters are sold in sacks of different sizes. On an average a sack of oysters is sold for KD5 — though the price fluctuates according to availability of supplies. The wholesale turnover in the market amounts to about KD1,000 per

day.

He said the HH the Amir has directed that a special place be allocated for an oyster market to preserve this national heritage.

Another oysterman, Jamal Al Tarkit said that most oysters sold in the market are caught from Jileea area. He disclosed that some citizens still dive for oysters and pearls, not for the monetary returns, but to preserve the profession of their grandfathers.

He said that these days, diving for oysters is undertaken during

daylight and operations are con-

ducted in deep waters. Prices of oysters differ as each oyster caught in a particular place differs from another.

He added that the most serious danger that face divers and oyster catchers is the shark. However, in the recent past, no attempts by sharks to savage divers has been reported. In the past, divers have been known to be the victims of shark attacks and were known to carry a knife to their legs to be used in case of an attack. This practice still prevails, Tarkit said.

Kuwait relief plane leaves for Tunisia

Four more scheduled

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): A military cargo plane of the Kuwait Airforce left here today for Tunis carrying the first batch of relief material donated by Kuwait to flood victims in Tunisia.

The Kuwaiti cabinet also

extended sympathies and condolences to the Tunisian people because of this natural disaster.

Tunisian Ambassador to

Kuwait Mohammed Habib

Kaabachi also praised Kuwait's financial and moral aid for the flood victims.

Kaabachi in two separate

statements in Arabic dailies said

the Kuwaiti attitude is consistent

with the country's policy of sup-

porting Islamic and Arab broth-

erly countries.

He said the storm had killed no

less than 56 people, destroyed 15,000 houses and left 72,000

persons homeless in addition to

damaging roads, bridges,

railroads and agriculture and

animal resources.

Kaabachi estimated the

damage at around \$50 million

but he reaffirmed the precise

estimates were not available yet.

Perfumes and cosmetics

Gulf urged to set up integrated industry

ABU DHABI, Jan 30, (GNA): A local industrial establishment urged the development of an integrated perfumes and cosmetics industry in the area. Presently, the region depends mainly on the blending of imported ingredients to produce perfumes with exclusive appeal to Gulf citizens, or repacking of imports.

A statement by the UAE Industrial Bank said that the perfumes and cosmetics industry and trade are of special importance, despite the few factories operating in this business.

The statement pointed out that there were five small factories producing different types of perfumes and cosmetics, which relied heavily on manual packaging.

The statement added that the perfume industry was an old manual profession in the region, including the UAE. However, new techniques were introduced into this business over the past few years which led to the production of high-quality perfumes of international standards which was met with tremendous acceptance in international markets.

The statement outlined the relative importance of the UAE perfume and cosmetics imports, pointing out that perfumes imported from France stood first in the list and totalled in value DH99 million in 1988, while British perfume came second at DH34 million and third came West German perfumes at the value of DH11 millions.

The statement said that the total value of the country's imports of perfumes and cosmetics over the last year reached DH335 million for an estimated 7,574 tons.

The demand for imported perfumes and cosmetics was comparatively greater than the projected needs of the current population in the country, attributing the reason to the high living standards in the UAE which reflected a high demand for luxury products.

Local and Gulf investors had high potential investment opportunity in the establishment of a joint perfume and cosmetics industry in the Gulf, stressing that the business could flourish and develop given the current local demand for these products, the statement said.

KPC annual employee increments reduced to 5pc

THE chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Labourers Union, Hamad Soyan said that the company in co-operation with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has reduced annual increments of employees from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent.

By this action, every labourer will lose a considerable amount of money on an annual basis, the official said.

Soyan said: "The Union is dismayed at this decision

which has been announced at a time employees are doing their utmost to enhance output."

He added that the company's action had negatively affected the social allowance increases adopted recently at the government employees level.

The union, in co-operation with Unions of Petrol Companies, is endeavouring to restore the previous average of social allowances which is considered a vested right, Soyam said.

Kuwait to participate in cultural meetings

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Adviser at the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein flies to Paris on Thursday to attend meetings of the governmental committee on the international decade for cultural development.

Hussein, a committee member, said the February 5-9 meeting will review progress reports of national committees responsible for execution of activities of the decade for cultural development.

The conference, the committee's second session, will be attended by representatives from 36 countries who will examine progress of 234 projects being implemented by global cultural organizations and governments, Hussein told Kuna today.

Kuwait, he said, has set up its own decade committee which is overseeing cultural activities in the country.

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Soyan said: "The Union is dismayed at this decision

Official information exhibition

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Rashed inspects various publications at the opening of a symposium on official information.

EPC to discuss various environ studies

By Jassim Ameen

THE Kuwait Environmental Protection Council will discuss a number of topics dealing with the Kuwaiti long-term requirements in the field of environmental research. These include consideration of all research studies prepared by university studies and those of higher studies, MSC or PhD.

These research studies on environmental biology should explore the effects on the country's ecological system and related aspects and determine the toxicity level.

Studies on environmental engineering cover all grave problems and available remedy measures, which involve the evaluation of new environmental control techniques, their reliability and economic feasibility.

The studies also covers ways to upgrade the performance of incinerators, recycling of solid municipal wastes, which includes de-toxification and stabilisation of organic matter before safe burial in designated locations, evaluation of ways used to reduce indoor pollution levels, thermal disposal of waste and upgrading the performance of incineration vaults to control the emission of pollutants.

These also involve the study of chemical reaction and physical changes sustained by air and water pollutants, ways to determine the

level of pollutants in the air, through chemical analysis and identify the type of pollutants inside buildings through mathematical modelling.

The studies cover the pollutants of fresh and briny water, around coastal areas, soil and underground water and silt, which also involve the transmittion of pollutants carried by surface and underground water to forecast the effects of surface factors on underground water.

In a related move the Kuwait Science Club yesterday launched the Marine Environment Association, a group intended to encourage youths to learn more about marine ecology and ways to protect it.

Association head Mahmoud Khaled Al Jassar told Kuna in an interview that members' applications are being accepted and applicants can choose any of the association's three committees which specialise respectively in diving, aqua-life and research.

The association, according to its head, will seek to organise training courses of diving, marine safety, coral reefs, marine oil pollution and a host of other sea-related topics.

A special library is being planned in co-operation with the Science Club, he added.

Interim mujahedeen government seeking recognition

Sayaf holds talks with Sabah

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Head of the Afghan mujahedeen interim government, Abd Rab Al Rasoul Sayaf held a round of talks this afternoon with Deputy Premier and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

The talks were attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saudi M. Al Osaimi, acting foreign undersecretary

Faisal S. Al Mutawa and other Kuwaiti senior officials in addition to the Afghan delegation.

Following the meeting, Sayaf told reporters that the mujahedeen have now excluded dialogue with the government as means for solving the Afghani problem.

"Our point of view is that an internal dialogue is not the road for a viable and

feasible solution," expressed Sayaf who arrived here yesterday heading a delegation comprising three ministers in his government.

Solution

"The appropriate solution," he told reporters, "is to stop foreign support to the Kabul government," noting that his government enjoys a wide support from

the Afghan people and should be supported by countries in the world.

Saudi Arabia, from where Sayaf arrived, is one of very few countries which recognise the interim government.

Sayaf said the talks with the top Kuwaiti diplomat were "beneficial and dealt with all questions pertinent to Afghani internal political situation."

Housemaid issue still under debate in Kuwait

HOUSEMAIDS are still a hot topic for debate in society with some for and some against the continued employment of such expatriates.

Some opined that maids do have a positive effect on families and others comment that relying on housemaids represent one of the disadvantages in Kuwaiti society in general.

A local daily canvassed a number of citizens to determine their opinions on the issue and whether they could do without maids.

Maleka Bader Khalifa said that she employed a maid in her house five years ago, but added that she can do without her services at anytime. She pointed out that her maid only looks after secondary house affairs like cleaning the house and washing. Having a maid has become a social symbol and is not related to actual living needs, she said.

Assistance

Rabab Abdul Majeed said that she has for the past 20 years relied on the services of housemaids and will find it difficult to do without their services. She stressed that current social life requires the assistance of a housemaid.

She added that the nature of her job as a teacher besides being a housewife, compels her to hire a maid. She needs a maid to help her look after the children during the morning period when she is at school. She stated that one of the reasons most housewives believe that housemaids are important is because they do not constitute much of a burden on the family budget, in comparison to the return they give by way of dealing with washing, cleaning, and the handling of day-to-day household chores.

Impact

Saeed Mohammed Saeed is not in favour of hiring a housemaid and said that since she is not married, she has personally attended to all her household needs, including the needs of her children. She said that in general maids have a negative impact on children. The difference in culture, language, mannerisms, and modes of behaviour between maids and those who employ them to look after children cause several problems, she said.

Saeed specifically stressed on the maids drawbacks in relation to their continual contact with children who being at an impressionable age tend to imitate their ways. Being at an impressionable age, these formative years of children are very vital to their adolescence and it is imperative that they should be guided by their parents and immediate members of the family.

Flag hoisting, athletic meet for Lankans

A PRESS release from the Sri Lankan Embassy in Kuwait has stated that there will be a flag hoisting ceremony to mark the National Day of Sri Lanka at 9.00 am on Sunday, Feb 4 1990, at the embassy premises. All Sri Lankans are welcome.

On Friday 9th February 1990, all Sri Lankans are welcome for the Sports N Athletics meet commencing at 9.00 am at Al Arabi Stadium Mansouriya.

The ambassador kindly requests the sponsors of Sri Lankans to permit the Sri Lankans to participate in this event on the Feb 9 1990.

Discrimination in sport conference

Kuwait to play host

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): The State of Kuwait will host the international meeting of the committee for combat of racial discrimination in sports and Olympic fields due to convene next February 19, it was announced here yesterday.

Kuwait was chosen by the International Olympic Committee to organise the session which will be attended by the IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and all members of the International Olympic Committee, the Asian Olympic Council said here.

The IOC has chosen Kuwait to host the meeting in appreciation of the effective role being played in the



British envoy hosts reception

British Ambassador Peter Hinckliffe Monday hosted a reception for the delegates of the British Schools Conference, which opened Jan 29 in Kuwait. Head teachers and teachers from 50 British schools in the Gulf and Middle East are taking part. This is the first time such a conference was held in Kuwait. Peter Watkins, deputy chief executive of the National Curriculum Council, was invited by the British Council to give a keynote speech. The theme of the conference was the "National Curriculum," which was introduced in the UK schools in September 1989. Several educational workshops were also held. Pictures shows Peter Watkins (centre) with guests at the reception.

Information symposium

Call for independent authority

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

A SPEAKER at the Scientific Symposium on official information and its role in scientific research and decision making, called yesterday for the establishment of a central independent authority for producing and compiling official information in Kuwait. Professor of Civil Law at Kuwait University, Dr Bader Al Yacoub also called for qualifying skilled manpower to produce this type of information, publish and circulate it.

In his lecture about the legal and organisational aspects of sources and production of official information in Kuwait, Dr Yacoub spoke about the country's legislation in this field and said that the main source of official information in Kuwait remains official documents. But he said that the sources of issuing such documents vary in size and importance.

Yacoub added that a draft bill has been prepared requiring that official documents and other publications must be deposited at the national library of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. The bill has stipulated a number of penalties for government agencies failing to send copies of their documents to the library. The bill was submitted to the state minister for cabinet affairs. On the problems of producing official information in Kuwait, Dr Yacoub said that unavailability of qualified technical equipment, shortage in skilled technicians, the presence of many official sides producing the information and the overlapping in

their duties, are some of the problems. He stressed that publication and circulation of official information is basically allowed, except if the law decides otherwise. He added that the publication of official information should be intended to benefit researchers and other interested persons.

Dr Yacoub emphasised on the important role information plays in modern life. It is integrally linked with all aspects of human activity like production, basic research, development aspects in services and others. He also demanded that the government should assign the central independent authority that should be established, to circulate and market official information to achieve the maximum benefit.

In another lecture delivered by the Planning Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Statistical Affairs, Musadd Al Ossaimi, the lecturer called for setting up a planning and co-ordination department for official information. He spoke on the role of the Central Statistical Office in publishing and circulating official information. Ossaimi said that the proposed department should co-ordinate between the various government sides producing official information. He also called for setting up a planning committee for official information in which all government sides producing information should be represented.

The participants also listened to detailed reports about the experiments of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt in the field of official information. The symposium will come to a close today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five new envoys

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today received the credentials of the new ambassadors of Venezuela, Italy, Burundi, Switzerland and Ethiopia prior to presentation to His Highness the Amir.

Present at the ceremony were Foreign Ministry's Acting Undersecretary Faisal Al Sabah, Director of Protocol Ahmed Abdel Wahab Al Ayoub and deputy manager of the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's office Faisal Al Mish'ar.

Planning committee

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed will chair a meeting of the ministerial committee on Kuwait's master development plan tomorrow, planning undersecretary Abd Hadi Mohamed Al Awadi said.

Awadi said the meeting would discuss plans forwarded by all the state's bodies for inclusion in the long-term plan stretching from fiscal 1990 to 1995.

He told Kuna that the ministry was working on the final stages of the Five-Year Plan for '90/95.

Awadi said all plans would be considered by the committee prior to presentation to the council of ministers for final approval.

Plan follow-up appeal

THE assistant undersecretary of Ministry of Education for planning and development Dr Rashad Al Hamad appealed to his departments to give more concern to the ministry's Five-Year-Plan that will be approved during the coming few days. He called on directors of these departments to distribute the plan over different sections of their departments to be used as a guide for them in their works. He called for regular follow-up reports to the planning department.

Hamad who met the directors, stressed on the importance to professionally develop the middle administration level through contributing in conferences, seminars and visits to advanced countries.

The directors praised the use of computers in the activities of the Education Ministry to facilitate work procedures. Directors are scheduled to meet with Hamad regularly on a monthly basis.

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Kisr devising plan to manage oyster beds

Pearl culture industry under study

By Diana Abou Matar

Arab Times staff

ONCE the lifeblood of Kuwait's economy and now in danger of depletion, pearl oysters may resurface as the object of a new national industry.

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (Kisr) is undertaking a project that aims to devise a plan to manage pearl oyster stocks in Kuwaiti waters and studying the economic feasibility of pearl culture in Kuwait. The project is partially funded by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources.

Pearl oyster fishing is still alive. More than 6 million oysters are landed annually in Kuwait's oyster market," says project leader, Dr Sulaiman Al Matar. He believes that fishing operations should be regulated to prevent possible depletion of existing stocks.

Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mohamed Abdalla Abul Hassan who accompanied Garba told Kuna that the UN official spoke about the achievements under his chairmanship, indicating that his mission was facilitated by the spirit of detente between the two super powers.

However, he said, Garba regretted that the Middle East question had not so far benefited from the rapprochement between the big powers.

Abul Hassan quoted Garba as stressing the strategic importance of Afro-Arab co-operation, suggesting working out a mechanism to ensure continuity of dialogue.

Abul Hassan paid tribute to the ministry's initiative for benefitting from Garba's vast experience through his meeting with the new generation of Kuwaiti diplomats.

Lawyers received

KUWAIT, Jan 30, (Kuna): Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah received in audience at his office today board chairman of the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association Mishari Mohamed Al Ossaimi, his deputy Abdalla Abd Ghafour, the association's treasurer Badr Saoud Al Badr and board members Abdheen Habib Al Saigh and Fahd Abdalla Al Khazaini.

The project leader says old timers were also able to give accurate descriptions of the sizes of oyster beds, their density and the kinds of weeds and other forms of marine life associated with them.

Researchers dive to the beds which usually are one-half to two kilometres in area, count the oysters and record the depth, water temperatures and salinity. They



Dr Sulaiman Al Matar measures the hinge length of a pearl oyster to determine its growth rate

also make random dives to discover new beds and map them.

"We are working on identifying areas of high spat (young oysters) fall and the time of the year when it occurs," said Matar explaining that spat need a rocky bottom to stick to and grow or else they die. Spat collectors, iron frames with lines of oyster shells, are placed underwater and checked periodically for the number of spat clinging to them.

"Such information about pearl oysters is not only essential for coming up with a good management plan, but also to the second task of our project, which is the economic feasibility study of pearl culture in Kuwait," stated Matar.

The study will explore whether it is profitable to establish a pearl culture industry in Kuwait, and if so on what scale. It will also examine manpower costs, expected market price for pearls and possible export markets for the

product. Matar speculates that it might be cheaper to culture pearls in Kuwait than in Japan because of high growth rates of oysters in Gulf waters. "It takes a year for a pearl to form in Kuwaiti waters because these waters are warm and rich in plankton, while in Japan it takes three years," he says.

But Kuwaiti waters are poor in natural shelters needed for this industry, the thing that limits the number of suitable sites added Matar.

Although Kuwaiti pearls are known for their special shine, researchers have noticed from daily monitoring of the oyster market that the rate of good-sized pearls found to the number of oysters open is approximately one in five thousand. A pearl 3mm in diameter is valued at KD50-60.

Dr Matar expects work on the project to be completed in July.

Italian shipping line to deploy 'Nuova Africa'

LLOYD Triestino are celebrating the presentation of the ship "Nuova Africa" built by the cantiere Castellammare di Stabia shipyard.

This highly sophisticated new building presents an investment of over 70 billion lire (\$54 million) and has a capacity of 1555 TEUs, 300 of which are refrigerated at different temperatures.

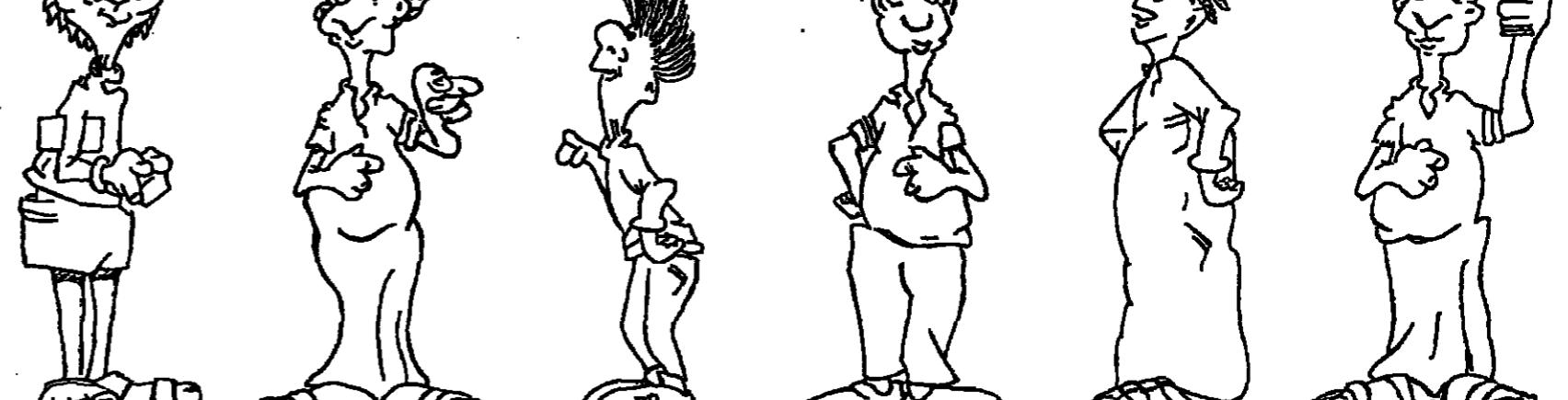
The company is going to deploy this ship on the Southern Africa route, to be operated within the SAECs (South Africa Europe Container Service) Consortium, formed together with LT by the French companies CGM and Chargeurs Delmas, the British P + OCL and EHCL, the Dutch Nedlloyd, Belgian CMB, German Dal and South African Safmarine. The sister ship "Nuova Europa" presently under

construction in the Castellammare yard, to be delivered in early 1990, is also destined to sail on this trade route.

The ship is 192.5 metres long, 30.5 metres wide, 16 metres high, having a deadweight of 27,000 tonnes. The "Nuova Africa" is a self-sustained full container vessel meaning that the onboard equipment can be sufficient to load and discharge containers, making the ship particularly suited to serve ports lacking adequate facilities.

Once the "Nuova Europa" is also delivered, Lloyd Triestino will have a fleet of ten wholly owned ships up from last year's five, plus the four chartered ships.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IMAGINATION has always had powers of resurrection that no science can match — Ingrid Bengis, US author (1944)

Life in Beirut not rosy

Armenians can't respond to call

BEIRUT. (Reuters): "Who wants to go to Armenia?" said 19-year-old Hagop Makarian derisively, flexing his shoulders as if half expecting a rebuke from his elders.

"We've had a war in Beirut for 15 years so who would want to go there? What could we do for them? I trust no one. I'm taking my parents to the United States."

Despite traditionally strong ties to their homeland in Transcaucasia, Lebanon's Armenians have pressing problems of their own. They offer concern, but little cash to Soviet Armenian victims of fierce ethnic clashes with Azerbaijanis.

Appeals for volunteers to aid Soviet Armenia, by fighting if necessary, find scant support in East Beirut's Bourj Hammoud district — after Los Angeles reportedly the largest concentration of Armenians outside the Soviet Union.

The days when Beirut-based Armenians grieved the world to take notice of their people's concerns seem to be over.

The people of Bourj Hammoud, blaming the bloodshed on the Azeris and their supporters in Turkey and Iran, have fretted for their kith and kin but done little to help.

Raised

Beirut exiles raised a million dollars' worth of aid after an earthquake in Soviet Armenia in late 1988. A similar campaign for those displaced by fighting this year has barely begun.

"No concrete steps have been taken," said Hagop Pakradouni, spokesman for Lebanon's Dashnak Party and a member of the central executive board of the worldwide Armenian National Committee.

Branches of the Dashnak Party in France and elsewhere have been signing up volunteers to offer help and, if necessary, come to the defence of Armenians in Soviet Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Of the world's estimated seven million Armenians, 4.5 million are inside the Soviet Union, Pakradouni said. Some 100,000 Armenians live in Bourj Hammoud and 75,000 elsewhere in Lebanon.

Help

But in Beirut, efforts to help Soviet Armenians are so far restricted to collecting money. And business is unusually bad.

Six months of some of the worst shelling in Lebanon's civil war battered Bourj Hammoud last year. It is now being squeezed by an economic and political war between rival administrations.

"We have been frankly preoccupied with the Lebanese crisis. We feel our first priority now is to Lebanon. It is our main concern," said Pakradouni in the party headquarters, its doors protected against shells and bombs by a wall of concrete blocks.

Flooded

Armenians first flooded to Lebanon in 1915, escaping what Armenians say was the massacre of up to 1.5 million of their people in Turkey. Turkey says far fewer died and denies charges of genocide.

Maronite leaders in Beirut welcome the Christian Armenians and the support of the French colonial rulers offered them citizenship to boost Christian numbers.

The Armenians have guarded their identity closely through churches, schools and cultural centres. Four Armenian-language papers circulate in Beirut.

Pakradouni said he believed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could solve the problems by applying his reform principles and giving disputed land back to the Armenians.

"We believe Gorbachev will succeed and everybody should help him," he said. Told that many Armenians in Bourj Hammoud said they liked the Soviet leader, Pakradouni added: "We don't admire Gorbachev but we think he is better than ... his predecessors."

Much of the talk in Bourj Hammoud is about how people would act in the case of an "emergency," another mass killing of Armenians. But few believe it could happen while Gorbachev is in control.

"He's a great man," said camera shop owner Heik Tomashian. "Because he thinks democratically, it is going to be good."

Some Armenians say they believed Beirut could send up to 3,000 fighters if the Soviet community were in grave danger. But they said sending volunteers to fight might be counterproductive and encourage support for Azeris.

"My heart is Lebanese but my spirit is Armenian," said grocer George Sarkisian, 25, when asked how he felt about the fighting.

Stopped

In such times of crisis, he said, the Armenian political parties stopped squabbling. But there was no certain route for any militants from Beirut to reach their brothers."

A Lebanese-based underground Armenian group warned Moscow this month it would become a target if it failed to prevent a massacre of Armenians.

But Armenian officials said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Asala) had largely been inactive since 1984 after it and two other Armenian groups succeeded in winning international attention for their cause by a string of killings.

Officials said Armenians in Beirut had not yet requested any visas from the Soviet embassy to travel to Armenia in connection with the crisis.

"We care but what can we do?" said Nazare Abu Naim in his baby shop, empty of customers. "There is no way we can get anyone in from here ... like the Jews, we Armenians have usually had to express ourselves economically, not by fighting."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1531 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles V appoints his sister, Mary of Hungary, as regent of the Netherlands.

1596 — Decrees of Folembray end war of the Catholic League.

1606 — British conspirator Guy Fawkes is executed.

1834 — Russians take Merv from Amir of Afghanistan.

1891 — Civil war begins in Chile.

1917 — Germany announces policy of unrestricted naval warfare in World War I.

1928 — Leon Trotsky is expelled from Soviet Union.

1943 — German troops surrender at Stalingrad in World War II.

1957 — Trans-Iranian pipeline, from Abadan to Tehran, is completed.

1958 — First US earth satellite, Explorer I, is launched at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

1962 — Foreign ministers of Organization of American States (OAS) vote to exclude Cuba from participating in the inter-American system.

1974 — Pan American Airways plane crashes on American Samoa, killing 95 of 101 people aboard.

1979 — China's first vice-premier Deng Xiaoping says after meetings with US president Jimmy Carter and congressional leaders that Moscow is world's "main hotbed of war."

1984 — Nine of world's poorer nations open talks in Lusaka, Zambia, on joint strategy to break traditional trade links with South Africa and to combat two years of devastating drought.

1988 — Thousands of Solidarity supporters march streets of Gdansk to protest price increases announced by Polish government.

1989 — Colombian airliner with 122 people aboard is hijacked from Colombia to Costa Rica, where hijacker turns himself over to authorities.



Honecker: behind bars

Voice of reform went unheeded

Honecker's life turns full circle

EAST BERLIN. (Reuters): Erich Honecker, the East German leader who built the Berlin Wall to imprison his people, now finds himself behind bars facing treason charges for the second time in his life.

Honecker ruled unchallenged and with unbending Stalinist rigour until October 1989 when he was removed in response to a popular reform movement and under pressure from a mass exodus to the West.

Within three weeks of his removal the wall, the most detested symbol of a divided Europe, came tumbling down 28 years after he built it at the height of the cold war.

Praised by East Germans for improving their lives after becoming Communist Party chief in 1971, he eventually forfeited their respect for refusing to recognise the need for change.

Hailed

He was hailed for years in the official media for his struggle against the Nazis, having spent 10 years in Nazi prisons for "preparation of high treason."

Honecker stood down as party leader and head of state on October 18, 1989, officially for health reasons, and handed over to the man regarded as his likely successor, security chief Egon Krenz. Six years later he, too, was ousted.

Honecker, 77, was expelled from the party six weeks after his removal from power in a purge of the political elite and faced criminal investigation for corruption and misrule and now for treason.

He was placed briefly under house arrest at the Wannsee Compound north of Berlin that was for 30 years the old guard's luxury enclave and is now a public sanatorium.

By then, with the wall open and his ideology in tatters, Honecker was a sick and broken man. Early this month he underwent surgery for a cancerous kidney tumour.

He had been regarded as one of the last of the old guard, distancing East Germany from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform drive yet supporting

Soviet foreign and disarmament policy.

He argued that change was unnecessary because he had launched his own reforms years previously.

As security chief, he supervised the building of the Berlin Wall, saying it was to halt Western subversion. In practice it was intended to stop East Germans going West.

When thousands of East Germans began flocking out through Hungary's newly open border in mid-1989, the exodus unleashed a popular reform

movement that Honecker was unable to contain.

For years after he took over as secretary-general of the East German Communist Party (SED), he enjoyed a reputation for dragging the country out of diplomatic isolation and ridding it of the image of Bonn's ugly sister.

In 1972 "Honi," as most East Germans called him, signed a landmark agreement with Bonn on ties between the two German states which opened the way for Western diplomatic recognition.

first free elections on March 18.

Modrow was due to visit Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on Tuesday and will undoubtedly detail the plight of East Germany, once a staunch Soviet ally and still the frontline of an increasingly discredited Warsaw Pact.

Anti-communist warning strikes have spread across the country. Around 100,000 people took to the streets of Leipzig on Monday night, calling for German reunification and pouring scorn on the discredited Communist Party.

"Opposition groups and parties have blossomed, making so many demands that the one-week-old government cannot keep up. They want a more open economy, more things to spend their money on, a better environment — and they want that now."

After 40 years of enforced silence, everyone has a right to be heard. Political meetings are packed, inter-

minable and often heated. Parliament allowed members of opposition groups to address the assembly for the first time on Monday.

With just six weeks until elections, most political forces are more concerned about preparing for the contest than actually running the country. The country's biggest reform movement, New Forum, is facing an internal policy split.

Parliament also heard a grim report on the state of the economy on Monday, hardly cheering news for foreign investors with the expertise that the country badly needs to modernise its outdated and inefficient industries.

Many East Germans are lacking in even the most basic knowledge of Western-style economics.

Speakers in the Parliament underlined the enormous difficulties involved in transforming a closed economy.

Reformers challenge conservatives

MOSCOW, (AP): Progressives from the lower ranks of the Communist Party are mounting an open challenge in the powerful Central Committee, demanding a multi-party system and a virtual apology for decades of totalitarian rule.

For the first time in at least half a century, the party may be facing two competing political platforms.

Progressives, newly united by programme and an organisation they call the "democratic platform," hope to force discussion of their proposals at a meeting of the Central Committee Feb 5-6, said Mikhail V. Malyutin, one of the group's leaders.

The Politburo led by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, wary of the fall of communist parties in Eastern Europe and stung by sharpening criticism of its own failure to solve economic and ethnic crises, is proposing its own programme to the meeting.

The Politburo platform calls for "radical democratization of the party," according to a Central Committee staffer who spoke on condition of anonymity. Details are still secret, he said.

The Central Committee meeting comes at a time when some candidates for local elections are calling openly for a multi-party system. Even Gorbachev two weeks ago dropped his unconditional opposition.

In the Baltics, other parties are already legalised or tolerated. Lithuanian communists expect to lose complete control of their legislature in next month's election and be forced into the first coalition government in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Communist Party lost about 160,000 members in December when 80 per cent of the Lithuanian party

split off to form an independent Communist Party. Thousands more were reported to have quit in Azerbaijan this week in fury over Soviet troops' attempt to halt ethnic and nationalist violence.

The Central Committee staffer refused to reveal the decline in membership but said: "We want to stop this process. We need to reform the party quickly."

The "democratic platform" adopted by the reformers last weekend is much more blunt.

"If the healthy forces inside the Communist Party do not succeed in carrying out deep-rooted democratic transformation, the crisis inevitably will bring the party to political bankruptcy (as in Poland) or to the iron fist (as in China)," it said.

More than 100 Soviet journalists covered the reformers' meeting last weekend. Yet in a telling example of just how far they can go in reporting severe criticism of the party, almost none has reported on it.

But Radio Moscow did, saying it would be "written down in the history of the Soviet Communist Party as a day when an event of extraordinary importance took place."

"A large group of communists formed a platform within the party, and declared its intention to work towards democratizing the party ranks and introducing a multi-party political system," the radio said.

The platform was adopted last weekend at a conference of delegates from more than 100 communist clubs, representing 60,000 members from 78 cities. Also at the meeting were Progressives from the inter-regional group of parliamentarians and reformers in the party bureaucracy itself, such as Vyacheslav N. Shustakov, rector of the Higher School for Communists.

The reform group is trying to gain an audience with Gorbachev to win a formal place on the agenda for its platform and to seek the right to participate in the plenum, said Malyutin.

In any case, Moscow legislator Boris Yeltsin is a member of the Central Committee and he is expected to propose the platform.

Many of the reformers have threatened to break away and form a social democratic party if their demands are not met. But others argue that the Communist Party is still too powerful and the reformers must fight for control of it.

The democratic platform also calls for the party to "recognise the enormous responsibility carried by the Communist Party for the results and consequences of the totalitarian regime in our country."

It further demands "complete and irreversible condemnation of the model of government socialism which has brought our society to deep crisis."

It calls for a multi-party system, supports more independence for the republics, individual communist parties for each republic, and the transfer of power from the party to elected parliamentarians and local councils.

It demands an end to the upper class of bureaucrats who enjoy special food, apartments, cars and other privileges, and election of the delegates to the critically important party congress, now scheduled for October.

In the past, delegates have been approved by party leaders, who thereby guaranteed their own hold on power.

It is the last item that is most likely to win approval from the Central Committee, still largely the province of hardliners.

Teaching East bloc rules of democracy

I HAVE been inundated with queries lately from former Iron Curtain countries asking what they can expect now that they have thrown off the yoke of communism.

Here are some examples:

Question: If we become a democracy, does that mean we will no longer have corruption among our politicians?

Answer: That is correct. Democracies have a strict rule banning dishonesty in government. If a public servant does anything to break his oath, he is dealt with even more severely than if he lived in a totalitarian country — unless he has a good lawyer and can plea-bargain his way out.

Question: If the nouveau liberators adopt democratic forms of government, does that mean we have to listen to all the speeches of the various political parties?

Answer: Citizens must pay a price for freedom of speech and that price means they must hear out all the candidates. Besides doing that, free people are also expected to contribute money to political campaigns so their rights will be guaranteed.

Question: I have a friend who says that since we will not be permitted to leave home without our American Express cards. True or false?

Answer: Your friend is right, but it doesn't necessarily have to be American Express — you can carry a Visa, Mastercard or even a Diner's Club card. This must be produced on demand when you walk into a shopping mall. The credit card is to the West what a Havana cigar is to Fidel Castro.

Question: If I live in a communist country, I do not have much money to spend. What is the first thing you would advise someone to buy who has just been liberated?

Answer: A radar detector. If you are going to beat the highway patrol at their own game in a democratic society, it is essential that you have a radar detector clipped to your sun visor. The most important thing for all citizens is to evade speed traps.

Harsh

\$773m US arms for Egypt, Israel

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (Reuters): The Bush administration announced yesterday it planned to sell \$773 million in Apache attack helicopters and Hellfire missiles to Egypt and Israel.

The proposal went to Congress as some lawmakers were already questioning whether to continue high-level defence aid to Egypt and Israel at a time of shrinking budgets and Eastern European need for US financial help.

Pentagon officials, who asked not to be identified, said they expected the sales to become official in 30 days without a veto from Congress.

The Pentagon announcement said Egypt would buy 24 Apache attack helicopters, 492 Hellfire air-to-ground missiles, launchers, spare engines and other equipment for \$488 million.

Israel would buy a package including 19 Apaches and 539 Hellfires for \$285 million, the announcement said.

Although such sales carry a high price, their cost is often written off against foreign military credits to the two countries.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole recently suggested that the United States might have to reconsider its high level of

aid earmarked for nations such as Egypt, Israel and Pakistan in order to provide more help for emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

The Pentagon also announced yesterday that the administration intended to sell 10 AH-1F Cobra attack helicopters and missiles to Pakistan for \$89 million.

Both the Apache and Cobra are designed to attack and destroy enemy tanks, and the Pentagon said the three countries needed the weapons in question.

"The Egyptian air force has a growing need for a more versatile and heavily armed helicopter gunship," the Defence

Department said, noting that neighbouring Arab states were obtaining increasingly sophisticated weaponry.

The United States defense budget for fiscal 1991 unveiled yesterday has cast doubt over two multi-billion dollar deals to sell tanks to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The decision to close the two production lines manufacturing the M1 Abrams tanks by early 1993 leaves both contracts up in the air, Defence experts said.

The Bush administration said last October it wanted to sell 315 M-1A2 tanks to Saudi Arabia in a deal worth up to \$6 billion.



Israel tests MiG-23

An Israeli Air Force pilot test flew a Soviet-made MiG-23 fighter jet on Monday in its first flight since a Syrian pilot defected with it to Israel last October.

The pilot flew the jet for about 50 minutes and performed a series of manoeuvres, including a fly-over of Jerusalem. The MiG-23 was escorted by an F-15 and an F-16, both US-made jets.

The pilot told reporters after the flight that we are investigating the system to see what it is and see how we can work against them.

The Israeli pilot's name could not be revealed under military rules.

When the jet was purchased in May, it acquired its original camouflage colours.

Israeli move rapped

100,000 Soviet Jews to immigrate this year: Abu Sharif

Military support for intifada discussed

JEDDAH, Jan 30, (AP): A military committee of the 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference today began discussing how Muslim nations can aid the Palestinian uprising.

It was the fourth meeting of the OIC's permanent Islamic office for military co-ordination with Palestine, which was first established by the 1981 summit conference of the OIC.

The group was formed to extend possible military support for the PLO. The office began as of last year to hold annual meetings, as originally designed.

The two-day meeting at OIC headquarters in Jeddah is attended by military delegations representing all OIC member states, some at the level of military attaches.

An OIC statement said the committee will consider ways of co-ordinating inter-Islamic

efforts to muster support for the Palestinian cause in the military field, to ensure continuation of the intifada, or uprising.

The uprising by the 1.7 million Palestinian inhabitants of the Israel-held West Bank and Gaza Strip is in its third year.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Gabid opened the meeting, which is being chaired by Col Mohammed Al Fazzani of Morocco.

During the first working session of the meeting, the OIC secretariat presented a memorandum in which it reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

The memorandum underlined "the necessity of extending all forms of support to reinforce the Palestinian intifada in the occupied lands" and urged all member states to increase their backing of the PLO.

Leader of North African Jews appeals

Call for talks with PLO

NETIVOT, Jan 30, (Agencies): A charismatic spiritual leader who has wide support among the country's predominantly hardline North African Jews yesterday called for a Palestinian state and talked with the PLO.

"We've had enough wars and bloodshed. We are ready to talk even with those who murdered some of our sons," said Rabbi Baruch Abu-Hatzer, known as Baba Baruch.

The rabbi, who had made similar comments earlier this month, spoke in an interview before joining thousands of pilgrims for the annual "Hilula," a county fair-style memorial for his father and revered holy man, Rabbi Israel Abu-Hatzer, who was known as Baba Sali.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, head of the right-wing Likud Bloc and a past ally, was so angered by the rabbi's statements that he cancelled his visit to the Hilula at the last minute.

Shamir accused Shamir of endangering regional stability and feeding the two-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

"The intifada (uprising) is going on and will be stepped up as the Palestinians have no alternative but to increase the resistance," he said.

Shamir said that Western European countries that call for democracy and human rights in eastern Europe should not make an exception of the Palestinians.

Investigate plight of refugees, Iran asks UN

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Iran yesterday asked the United Nations to investigate the plight of more than 80,000 Iranians it said were displaced when Iraq occupied Iranian territory during the eight-year-long Gulf war.

Ambassador Kamal Kharazi, during a meeting with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuello, presented a report on the displaced Iranians he said had been forced to leave for neighbouring towns and villages, an Iranian spokesman said.

According to the ambassador, a total of 84,751 were forced to leave their homes when Iraq occupied about 1,000 square miles (2,600 sq. km) along the border between the two countries.

Another 1.4 million Iranians feel threatened because they live close to the occupied area, the ambassador was reported as saying.

Iran has rarely mentioned the displaced persons issue in its demand that Iraq withdraw from its territory before the estimated 10,000 prisoners of war held by both sides are released.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein earlier this month suggested there be alternate meetings in Tehran and Baghdad by representatives of both countries under UN supervision to set a time-table for a peace treaty to be put into effect.

The discussions should be aimed at both sides agreeing on how to interpret a UN Security Council resolution that so far has brought about a ceasefire in the Gulf war but no peace treaty.

At the same time, Hussein said, both countries should exchange wounded and sick prisoners of war and open their borders to enable people to visit holy shrines.

Israeli atrocity

The wife of Abdallah Al Gasrawy gestures as she stands with her children amid the rubble of their home demolished by the Israeli army for being constructed without a permit. (Reuters wirephoto)

pilgrims who flocked to a white-domed mausoleum on a muddy hilltop in this Negev desert town to mark the sixth anniversary of Baba Sali's death.

"We should talk to the PLO if that brings peace. My youngest son will be drafted in two years, and I'm already sick with worry," Rina, 55, a mother of six from the nearby town of Beersheba, said as her hands touched the white marble grave.

Rina, who like the other pilgrims ascribes miraculous powers to Baba Sali and Baba Baruch, said she prayed for peace over the grave. She then placed a soft-drink bottle filled with water on the grave, saying it would become holy and run away all alone.

Another pilgrim, David Danin, 63, criticised Baba Baruch, saying he should not mix religion and politics.

"If we are good Jews, God will help us. Baba Baruch should not try to be a politician. Many people think it's not good what he did," said Danin.

Turkey water cut hits crops: Syria

DAMASCUS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Syria blamed Turkey today for electricity cuts and water shortages across the country, saying they were the result of Ankara's decision to cut the flow of the Euphrates river.

In the first official Syrian reaction since Turkey on January 13 changed the course of the Euphrates for 30 days to fill a giant dam, an official told Reuters all cities were suffering.

Half way through the planned cut-off, the irrigation Ministry official said farmers had already lost winter crops and thousands of fish had died.

He termed Ankara's action unnecessary and likely to cause enmity between the people of both countries.

"The cut had a psychological effect on the Syrian people who depend in their daily lives on the river's waters.

"The cut might lead to a state

of enmity on the popular level, something which both the Syrian and Turkish governments exerted big efforts in recent years to remove."

He said Turkey could easily have avoided cutting water to Syria and Iraq in other ways, such as operating the Karakaya dam, some 40 miles (60 km) upstream of the Ataturk dam.

Listing the impact of Syria, the official said:

■ Only one of eight huge hydroelectric turbines at the Euphrates dam which provide 60 per cent of the country's electricity consumption was now working. This had resulted in rationing electricity supplies in all cities including the capital Damascus.

■ All farmers who used to pump water from the river to irrigate thousands of acres were getting no water. They had lost their winter crops.

Crowds set fire to cars and threw stones at the headquarters of regional governments in the central town of Sidi Bouzid and the southwestern town of Nefta last

2 hurt in Cairo

Police ambushed

CAIRO, Jan 30, (Reuters): Suspected Muslim fundamentalists injured a senior policeman and his driver in Cairo today when they ambushed his car with stones and molotov cocktails, police sources said.

Colonel Rifaat El Shafai and his driver were slightly injured when the group of bearded men shattered the windshield with stones and tossed homemade bombs at the car, they said.

The sources said the attackers had apparently been watching Shafai's movements for some time and knew his route to work in the suburb of Ein-Shams.

Iraq denies reported killing

Iraq today denied a Kurdish opposition group's claim that helicopter gunships killed 60 Kurdish fighters in an anti-guerrilla sweep in northern Iraq. (Reuters)

Supercomputer accord: Israel and France have signed an agreement to develop supercomputers, two weeks after the European Parliament moved to limit scientific ties with Israel over its handling of the Palestinian uprising. (Reuters)

Tunisian president pledges \$445 million relief for flood victims

TUNIS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, condemning violent protests by flood victims, pledged 400 million dinars (\$445 million)

for relief work.

In a speech broadcast late on Monday, Ben Ali said he sympathised with people who had to wait several days before help arrived but that did not justify attacks on government buildings in two towns in

crowd-set fire to cars and threw stones at the headquarters of regional governments in the central town of Sidi Bouzid and the southwestern town of Nefta last

week in protest at the slow pace of relief operations.

Thirty people and 21,000 livestock were killed and 38,000 houses and 307 schools damaged in the flooding caused by torrential rain that began on Jan 21.

Ben Ali said disruption to transport and communications caused by the floods had stopped relief arriving quickly.

Although one can understand the psychological state which prevailed, that in no way justifies the behaviour of certain elements who, with no sense of patriotism, exploited the situation to incite unrest and attack public property, he said.

An official statement initially blamed Muslim militants for the unrest in Sidi Bouzid, but local residents said the militants were a minority among the protesters. Ben Ali later replaced the local governor.

The president said short-term repairs to houses, farms, schools, roads, bridges and railways would cost 200 million dinars (\$223 million). People whose homes had been damaged would start receiving compensation within three weeks.

Some of the rest of the total of 400 million dinars of relief money would be spent on preventing future floods, includ-

Sex crimes

Gets the boot

TEHRAN, Jan 30, (Reuters): Iran has ordered out a Turkish diplomat for membership of a gang that forced women to parties and then raped them. (Reuters)

It quoted the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee in West Azerbaijan province as saying the diplomat, based in Urmia, near the Turkish border, was among six members of a recently uncovered "corruption and prostitution gang."

"The gang seduced mostly non-local girls and women, took them to decadent parties and corrupted and raped them," the commander said.

Policeman shot dead

A Turkish traffic policeman, photographed by local newspapers brandishing a gun during a violent 1989 May Day protest, was shot dead outside his Istanbul home on Tuesday, the Anatolian news agency said. (Reuters)

Rebels kill 12: The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army killed 12 young men from the southern region of western Equatoria for refusing to join their ranks, a daily official paper reported. (AP)

US protests to Cyprus

The US State Department protested on Monday to Cyprus over its government's allowing a Kurdish "terrorist" organisation to hold a news conference last week in Nicosia. (UPI)

Rebels kill 12

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army killed 12 young men from the southern region of western Equatoria for refusing to join their ranks, a daily official paper reported. (AP)

ing building dams, especially around five flood-prone towns in the south and centre of the country.

Fifty million dinars (\$55 million) of the total money would be found by redistributing the 1990 budget and another 50 million from donations.

The government would raise the balance of 300 million dinars (\$335 million) by other methods, Ben Ali said.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia last week donated \$50 million for relief operations. Other donations have come from the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the UN disaster relief organisation.



The New Indian School's third annual 'Open Day'

The New Indian School held its third annual "Open Day" last week. The first subject room that attracted the visitors was the computer centre. Parents were treated to a number of Computer Games which demanded skill and precision.

The commerce and economics section was a display of charts and models which were self-explanatory. The principles of economics were well underlined by a series of charts, cartoons and comic strips.

The literary section comprising English, Arabic, French and Hindi was sprawled with eye catching charts, aphorisms pictorial language charts, short stories and poems painstakingly written by budding artists and poets.

In geography, History and Kuwait Social Studies, sections were attractive accompanied with charts and models.

The Islamic studies section contained many

beautiful handicrafts and models of the Islamic World. It also depicted many beautiful charts of the famous sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

The primary section displayed their beautiful models and colourful paintings everybody was impressed by what two little hands could produce.

A novel feature of this year's Open Day was the sports section and the arts section which boasted of pictures of international sportsmen and sports women in action.

The arts section displayed a variety of sketches and paintings. Parents and visitors left the school with a deep sense of satisfaction.

The work done by the primary section is beyond imagination. The credit goes to the kids and the teachers for the pain they took to make it successful and inculcating a creative spirit in children under the able guidance of the primary teachers.

INDIAN VIDEO PRODUCTION

Drawn from a slice of life

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

OCCASIONALLY, a film comes along that touches your heart. *Seepiyan* is one such venture. As most films of this nature go, *Seepiyan* makes you wonder about your existence, like the protagonist Radha (Debashree Roy) does. In a pensive mood, she says: "We spend a lifetime trying to find the meaning of our actions. Why don't we just live without sinking into what we do what we do."

Radha's plight seems universal, applying to any woman anywhere in the world. Her dilemma is not so personal; it's just a question of how you look at it. From a seemingly harmless gesture of rescuing a woman sprangs a format that engages your attention.

It's the story of love, friendship, companionship and lust all intricately woven through Radha's experiences. That a man can callously take advantage of a woman's emotional weaknesses is apparent from Radha's plight. She needed affection, she is saddled with guilt, a burden that she symbolically wants to drown in the purity of the Ganges. Destined to live, she survives and finds true friendship and companionship.

Seepiyan is a small budget, so called "art" film. It need not have been slotted. It is meaningful cinema, introspective and definitely drawn from a slice of life. One can hardly suspect its human appeal. And because it is so close to reality, it is poignant, debating an individual's need to belong to somebody, something or some cause. In Radha's case, it's just a case of acceptance, and that is not heart-breaking.

Debashree Roy, a sultry Bengali beauty, fits the bill. A natural performer, she has no difficulty in interpreting Radha's emotional upheaval. Roy is ably supported by Om Puri, who plays the illiterate, lowcaste boat owner. Kanwajeet is convincing.

Aulad Ki Khatir

This is a family drama, the type that tries to make you fill buckets with tears after watching the capers of stereotyped mothers and sons.

The mother, as represented in Hindi movies, belongs to a small coterie of women who'll do

anything for their offspring. They smile and bear the trauma of separation, put up with traumatic experiences and survive.

From the word go, Aulad Ki Khatir tells us to watch out for contrived parental dilemmas, which the filmmakers pile up. First, there is a childless mother, who fears her husband might take a second wife if she doesn't produce a son and worries so much that we start wondering whether are supposed to be child-making machines. Her aunt comes to the rescue and Mother Nutan's child is taken away from her for better prospects. What follows is film history. And the worst thing is that we can't even shed a few tears at the plight of hapless victims — Raj Kiran, Swapna, Nutan and Kulbhushan Kharbanda.

Aulad Ki Khatir runs off the track and jells in the family portrait that is customary in such ventures. Somehow, the trick didn't work is customary in such ventures. Somehow, the trick didn't work this time. Perhaps, there have been too many family dramas that have harped on similar themes. As a consolation prize, there is a neat climax sans the proverbial kidnap-rescue vendetta to wrap up the parcel.

Wafaa

Farooq Sheikh and Vijeta Pandit star in *Wafaa*, a story of loyalty and fidelity. There is something amiss in this movie, perhaps conviction — to make it a watchable tragedy. Dramatic turns are few and far between, and the drama that is there seems jaded, stale. There is no enthusiasm in the story of the widow who wants to live with the memory of her late husband. It had potential, but it was not exploited.

The other man in her life makes a half-hearted attempt to win the widow's love, and succeeds, but only after an incomprehensible misunderstanding. As a result, it mocks itself. Poorly directed and a sketchy script don't help matters. The performers don't fit the bill. Farooq Shaikh is best suited to light-hearted, comic roles. In a supposedly serious movie, Farooq just can't cope. Vijeta Pandit interpretation of the young widow seems like a futile exercise.

The above films are by courtesy of Adisari Video, Main St. Farwaniya and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg, Sharq.

Kuwait

Shab Pharmacy

Fahd Al Salem St.

Sharp Pharmacy

Safat Souk

Salimiyah

Al Bader Pharmacy

Blajat Street

Fahd

Abu Halifa Pharmacy

Coastal Road

Kheitan

Kheitan Pharmacy

Ibrahim Bin Adham St.

Riggi

Riggi Pharmacy

Bader Al Salem Bldg.

Jahra

Al Khalid Pharmacy

Opp. Co-operative Society

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Ghoraiba Fi Al Madena: Arabic serial (part 5)
- 11.30 Al Waad: Berium weekly serial (part 5), starring Mohammed Al Abadi, Sahar Sami and Yousef Al Jamal
- 12.25 News summary
- 12.30 Sabah Al Kher final
- 12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite
- 4.45 Saham Al Fadha: cartoon serial (part 2)
- 5.15 Spencer: Arabic children's serial (part 4)
- 5.45 Night chemists, airline lines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashiq: historical serial (part 11)
- 7.00 Variety
- 7.10 Popular Arts: Local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Matairi
- 7.45 Monuments and Islamic Arts: cultural programme (part 5)
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Television network: local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Raham Al Najjar
- 10.15 Al Laeb Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 9)
- 11.15 Al Batal: Arabic feature film, starring Shadaya, Taheya Karyouka, Ismael Yaseen, and Zeenat Sudqi.
- 12.45 News summary
- 12.50 The World Today via Satellite
- 1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

- 6.10 Scooby Doo. A cartoon series for children.
- 6.30 Danger Bay, "Racing Against Time." A friend of Nicole finds her horse drugged on the eve of a major race. Grant exposes the culprit.
- 7.00 International Outdoorsman "Ski-Diving" 4 Pirates of The High Seas. Action-packed out-door, live-action adventures that circle the globe, captivating the universal family audience...

7.30 Growing Pains.

- "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner". Jason's mother returns from her journey to Mexico with unexpected surprise.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Top of the Hill, "At Risk". The water in Tom Bill's area is polluted by a company produces insecticides. He attempts to compensate affected families... and to protect the area from pollution.

9.30 The Science Edition.

- Advanced technology introduced in rescue operations. Importance of advanced technology in musical instruments.
- 10.00 Cine Club. Presented by Farouk Abdulsaziz "The colour purple". Starring: Dany Clover, Adolf Cear
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.17 am
Zohr	12.01 pm
Asr	3.04
Magrib	5.25
Isha	6.44



Introducing Christian Breton

RECENTLY, Supply & Building Co. held a dinner party at Le Meridien Hotel to launch "Christian Breton, Paris" beauty products. Omar Bakir, President of S & B gave a welcoming speech: Ladies and gentlemen: Back in 1978, Christian Breton initiated an in-depth study into the makeup and treatment products in the market, and noted that they fell largely under two categories:

Firstly: quality products, which were quite expensive.

Secondly: inexpensive products, but of mediocre quality and performance.

Upon further studies, Breton concluded that the quality products although far superior in quality did not justify the high selling price that they commanded. Hence, he decided to market a line superior in quality and design, every ingredient the best to be found at acceptable prices.

Within seven years, following this policy, Breton became the twelfth largest company in France.

Why indeed should the lady pay up to four and a half dinars for lipstick when she can get complete satisfaction with a lipstick of one dinar nine hundred fils?

Why should she pay seven and a half dinars for a cleaner, when she can buy an equivalent or even superior products for two? But first she must be satisfied that this is not just sales talk — that it is a fact, tried and found true by her and no one else. And we are here to ask her to try. To ask you ladies to try. We feel certain that you will soon count as yet another Christian Breton satisfied customer.

CINEMA

Al Andalus	Arabic film
Salimiyah	Hall Booked
Hall Booked	Al Haifa
Al Haifa	Nowhere to Hide
Nowhere to Hide	Drive In
Drive In	Cocktail
Cocktail	Al Firdose
Al Firdose	Mera Farz
Mera Farz	Fahsah
Fahsah	Arabic film
Arabic film	Al Jabra
Al Jabra	Rage of Ninja
Rage of Ninja	Granada
Granada	Hall Booked
Hall Booked	Salimiyah
Salimiyah	To Burn the Sun
To Burn the Sun	Jeeb
Jeeb	D.O.A.
D.O.A.	Ahmad Drive-In
Ahmad Drive-In	Arabic film

Dr Swatch is in Town!!

Dr Swatch is now polishing the glass of your Swatch watch to make it look like new for just KD 1. This entitles you for a free guard or band of your choice.

Dr Swatch is now seeing clients at Jashanmal showroom — Fahd Al Salem Street from Jan 27 to Feb 8, '90. Hurry up... Let Dr Swatch check your watch.

to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 241061 and 4765070.

Daniella Fastelavn

Daniella celebrates "Fastelavn" for Danes at Gazebo Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne — Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie — Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Soviet Ballet

STARS of the Soviet Ballet, featuring the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow will be touring Kuwait on February 2 and 3. They will perform 130 minute shows at Al Andalus Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 2, the show will start at 6.00 pm. On Saturday, Feb 3, it will start at 8.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale starting Thursday 10.00 am to 8.00 pm. Friday through out the day and during the following week at the box office.

Kalpak's Drama Competition

KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990 commencing from 9:00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be:

Parade by King Momo, Crwonying of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival."

The Carnival Nite (By the Entertainers)

IN THE arena of entertainment 'The Entertainers' welcomes all to witness their 'Carnival Nite' at the Ramada Salam Hotel's (Le Mirage Ballroom) on the 22nd February (Thursday) 1990 commencing from 9:00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be:

Parade by King Momo, Crwonying of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival."

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitas. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Ladies International League

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Strikes result in idle oil wells

MOSCOW, Jan 30. (Reuter): Protest strikes against the presence of Soviet troops in Baku, capital of the oil-rich Republic of Azerbaijan, have halted production from hundreds of oil wells, TASS news agency reported today.

"They need repairs and equipment replacements. At least three months of intensive work are needed to put them back into service," TASS quoted K. Kerimov, administrative head of the oilfield, as saying of the idle wells.

In the past 10 days, the 26 Baku Commissars field fell behind schedule by more than 10,000 tonnes of oil, the report said. It did not say what the target production had been.

Other oilfields affected by the unrest were Kirovneft and Azzibekovneft, TASS said. The situation is being discussed in work collectives, which are jointly looking for ways out of the dramatic situation.

The Soviet army was sent to Baku on January 20 in what the Kremlin said was an attempt to stop ethnic clashes and put down an Azeri nationalist revolt. Since then, most of Baku's population has refused to go to work in protest.

Azerbaijan provides about five per cent of Soviet oil production. The flow from offshore wells in the Caspian Sea accounts for about 250,000 barrels per day.

But the area also accounts for 60 per cent of oil field equipment manufactured in the Soviet Union, meaning strikes there can hurt oil production nation-wide.

The figures released by TASS were the first details provided by the Soviet media on how the transcaucasian unrest is affecting the oil industry.

EEC consumer price index up

LUXEMBOURG, Jan 30. (AP): Consumer prices in the 12-nation European Economic Community rose 0.3 per cent in December 1989 from the previous month, the EEC's statistical service Eurostat said in a statement today.

The year-to-year inflation rate stood at 5.4 per cent, one percentage point higher than a rate of 4.4 per cent in December 1988. Year-to-year inflation was higher in all EEC nations except Portugal, Eurostat said.

By comparison, the US year-to-year inflation rate stood 4.6 per cent in December while Japan's inflation rate was 2.6 per cent, the statement said.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 30. (Reuters): Speculation that Prime Minister Bob Hawke would announce a general election date boosted the market in late trading. The All Ordinaries index closed at 1,695.7, up 11.2.

TOKYO: A relatively firm yen stabilised bond prices in Japan and the market had recovered from boosted share broadly at the close. But prices were off their peaks and trade was light. The Nikkei index closed at 37,215.67, up 41.97.

HONG KONG: Share prices closed easier on mild overseas selling but trading remained thin in the long Lunar New Year holiday. The Hang Seng index fell 8.86 to 2,760.80.

SINGAPORE: Share prices rose over a broad front on bargain-hunting and short-covering, fairly active trading.

BOMBAY: Share prices fell broadly on end-account considerations in cautious lock-in trading. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 15.15 to 701.06.

Envoy hopes to expand trade links

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

A PROFILE of Japanese People, is the title of the Japan Week 1990 to be held in Kuwait from Feb 2-6, under the auspices of the Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah.

Speaking to newsmen during a press conference yesterday, the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait, Tsuyoshi Kurokawa, said that the Japan Week aims at showing the genuine image of Japan.

Kurokawa praised economic and political relations between Kuwait and Japan. He added that people here have enough information on Japan, and in general are quite well-informed

about what is happening in Japan through the local media.

Japan in the past 150 years was totally unknown to the world as it basically was an agricultural society and was far cry from the technological giant it is today. But after Japan opened its doors to the world, it tried to introduce the fruit of modern civilisation harmoniously in combination with its tradition and culture.

About the Japan Week 1990 in Kuwait, the ambassador said that it focuses on four areas. The first is to introduce traditional culture of Japan including folk dances, tea ceremony demonstration, flower arrangements and cooking.

Second is related to the modern aspect of Japan through

holding investment and banking seminars to get the recent information on Japanese trends of business, current trends of Japanese and world economy. An exhibition of the most recent electronic products, toys, books and cars will also be added to the insight on Japan. Third is about Japanese exhibition of traditional old and new craftsmanship. Old and new Japanese films will also be shown in co-ordination with Kuwait Cinema Club.

He added that the last area is new and is realised through the Kuwaiti and Japanese Friendship Society. The international understanding is mutual understanding. In co-ordination with the society some aspects of the

Kuwaiti life will be presented to the Japanese community here.

Replying to a question on encouraging tourism to Japan, the official admitted that tourism in Japan is still underdeveloped partly due to the unfavourable exchange rate between the yen and other main currencies.

He added that they have been observing the rapid development of new style of tourism in the last few years that feature not only exclusive hotels but also hotels of reasonable prices along with the expansion of transportation networks. He said that some endeavours are going on to attract more tourists from the region.

Regarding Kuwait — Japanese economic relations, Kurokawa said that the volume of trade between the two countries in the

last year from January to October was \$2.3 billion. There is a possibility to enlarge the volume of trade. So far neither Japan nor Kuwait governments see the necessity of making specific arrangements in the field of economic exchange and trade. The free trade and market system in Japan tries not to intervene into the activities of Japanese private companies but to give them a free hand.

According to the ambitious Kuwait Five-Year Plan there are proposals for heightened economic activities here in Kuwait and hoped that trade activities between Kuwait and Japan would be expanded in the coming years.

Replying to a question about

the possibility of having a Kuwaiti Week in Japan, the official said in 1986 the GCC countries jointly hosted a week-long festival in Japan. Japan is ready to offer help in co-ordination with the Japan-Kuwait Society in Tokyo and Arab Friendship Society in Tokyo to introduce Kuwait to the Japanese.

About introducing more specialised weeks of modern industry and technology in Kuwait, he said that it is very difficult to implement such projects within a short span of time. However, such projects were organised in USA and Europe, also he did not exclude the possibility of having such projects in the future.

Bahrain, US firm sign crude contract

Harken to carry out 3-year exploration

BAHRAIN, Jan 30. (Reuter): Bahrain signed a contract with the US firm Harken Petroleum today to drill for oil and gas off its northern coast, the Gulf News Agency (GNA) quoted Industry and Development Minister Yousef Shirawi as saying.

Shirawi said Harken, a Texas-based "wildcat" firm, would carry out a three-year exploration programme off the islands of Muharraq and Umm Nasan and on the Coral Reef of Fasht Al Jairan.

If drilling was successful, profits would be shared between Harken and the Bahrain National Petroleum Company for 35 years, Shirawi said. The report gave no further details.

Wildcat wells are drilled with little seismic information about underlying rock formations.

Bahrain produces about 45,000 barrels per day (bpd) from dwindling oil reserves which are expected to run out by the turn of the century. It buys

most of the oil for its 250,000 bpd refinery from Saudi Arabia.

It also produces about 700 million cubic feet a day of gas from estimated reserves of about 10,000 billion cubic feet.

Non-Opec oil producing countries are planning a meeting of experts with Opec in March, a senior Omani oil official said today.

"We are in touch with (the) Opec secretariat to have a meeting in March either before or after Opec's market monitoring committee meeting," Rashid Al Barwani, director of marketing at Oman's Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He said no date or venue has been set yet.

Opec's market monitoring committee will meet in Vienna on March 15 and all 13 members of Opec are expected to attend.

The non-Opec group comprises Oman, Egypt, Angola, Malaysia, China, Mexico,

Brunei, Norway, North Yemen, the Soviet Union, Colombia, the states of Texas and Alaska and Canada's Alberta province. Some of the states attend the meetings as observers. Non-Opec experts met last October in Kuala Lumpur and accepted an invitation by Opec secretary general Subroto for a meeting in early 1990.

In February 1989, seven non-Opec producers — Oman, Mexico, Angola, the Soviet Union, Malaysia, China and Egypt — agreed to cut exports by five per cent in the second quarter of 1989 to support Opec's efforts to boost market prices.

Meanwhile, a key Opec official said today that the world's industrial nations should have no fear of the price increases and long-gas lines of the 1970s being repeated because the oil-consuming and producing nations need each other.

"It is worth reminding those who would raise again the spectre of oil import dependency in the industrial world that the rapid oil price adjustments of 1973 and 1979 could never be repeated given the growing material interdependence," said Subroto.

Subroto, formerly Indonesia's Oil and Energy Minister, made his statement in the foreword to Opec's annual report issued in Vienna and reported by the official Opec News Agency.

The 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries pumps more than one-third of the world's crude oil and was responsible for crude prices soaring nearly tenfold in the 1970s by holding back on production.

"As a consequence of the industrial nations developing alternative fuels and taking measures to conserve fuel, oil prices collapsed in 1986.

The organisation has since acted to keep crude prices low enough to maintain its share of the world market.

Refinery to cost \$1.2b

Iran signs oil refinery contract

NICOSIA, Jan 30. (Reuter): Iran has signed a contract with a consortium of Italian and Japanese firms to build a \$1.2-billion oil refinery at the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said today.

Iranian television said the contract for the refinery, due to come on stream by March 1994 to process 22,000 barrels per day (bpd) of heavy crude oil and 12,000 bpd of liquids from the nearby Sarkhoon Gas Complex, was signed last night.

Aqazadeh said the refinery would cost \$1.2 billion. He did not name any of the foreign firms involved nor make clear how much the contract with the consortium was worth.

The minister said on the television that Iranian engineers were involved in drawing up the project and would be concerned in building the refinery.

The plant would become Iran's eighth oil refinery

and part of its output would be exported, he said. It would become operational after another refinery now being built in Arak in central Iran.

The Bandar Abbas plant would be environment-friendly and use advanced technology, the minister said.

Aqazadeh said one-fifth of the two million man-hours needed in drawing up the refinery project and four-fifths of the 40 million man-hours for its installation would be provided by Iranian engineers and workers.

Contracts had been made with Iran's heavy industries ministry to manufacture 25,000 tonnes of the plant's 130,000 tonnes of machinery, the minister added.

In an another development a prominent United Arab Emirates official today asserted that all indications show that oil is still and will remain the essential and principal source of energy in the world.

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Kaifu welcomes Bush budget

Budget plan sets the stage for some tough battles with Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan 30. (Reuter): US President George Bush's fiscal 1991 budget plan sets the stage for some tough battles with Congress over spending for military and domestic programmes and reducing red ink without raising taxes.

With both sides still smarting from a bruising fight last year over Bush's proposal to reduce the capital gains tax on long-term investments, the administration and Congress are unlikely to come up with an early agreement on the \$1.2 trillion spending plan.

Congress already is criticising Bush's proposed \$306.9 billion authorisation for defence in fiscal 1991.

With democratic and economic reforms taking place in Eastern Europe and tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States easing, lawmakers are looking forward to so-called "peace

dividend."

Many hope to be able to divert spending from the military and increase spending for domestic social programmes that were neglected during former President Ronald Reagan's eight years in the White House.

The defence proposal represents a slight increase over the \$301.6 billion authorised for the current fiscal year. But since the defence budget does not keep pace with inflation, the administration says the proposed amount shows a reduction.

House Speaker Thomas Foley said shortly after the President's budget was publicly released on Monday that "there will be larger reductions in defence spending."

Lawmakers will be working within the

confines of a deficit reduction law which requires the deficit be more than \$64 billion in fiscal 1991.

Bush says his plan would bring the 1991 deficit to \$63.1 billion without any new taxes. But budget analysts say the administration arrived at that number by using some of the gimmickry that has marked previous budgets.

Bush relies heavily on robust economic growth, envisaging a nine per cent rise in revenues offsetting the three per cent rise in spending.

The plan assumes gross national product (GNP) will expand by 2.6 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990. A 3.3 per cent growth rate is projected for fiscal 1991.

Many fiscal analysts believe the administration's predictions are too rosy and that after seven years of uninterrupted

growth the economy is due for a recession or, at the very least, a significant slowdown.

While Bush's proposal to provide tax benefits for special family savings plans is likely to get a warm reception in Congress, another battle is likely over his plan to cut the capital gains tax, which opponents say will only help the wealthy.

Passage of Bush's plan has been complicated by a competing tax reduction proposal from Senator Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat who wants to benefit all workers by cutting social security taxes.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Toshiaki Kaifu said today he welcomed President Bush's budget plan as "it shows an enthusiastic US attitude toward reducing the budget deficit."

Bush sent to Congress yesterday a \$1.23 trillion fiscal 1991 programme which anticipates a deficit of \$63.1 billion.

"We appreciate the effort the United States has made" under the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget laws requiring a deficit of \$64 billion, Kaifu's spokeswoman Mayumi Moriyama said.

Moriyama also said the closure of three US military bases in South Korea will not adversely affect the defence of Japan and the region.

"I think the United States will continue to maintain the appropriate level of military presence in the Asia-Pacific region," she said.

Defence agency Director General Juro Matsumoto said Japan's defence build-up programme will not be affected by a cut in US defence spending.

Reforms show no fruit

MOSCOW, Jan 30. (AP): New government figures have confirmed what Soviet shoppers already knew: most industries failed miserably at fulfilling President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's promise of more consumer goods in 1989.

West farmers had a bad year, but they were about the only ones in agriculture, according to statistics in a recent newspaper this weekend. After an investment of \$110 billion in agriculture in 1989, food production rose just one per cent — not the 6.6 per cent expected.

Most of that small increase came in grain, sugar beets and potatoes. Soviet consumers will find the last one hard to comprehend, since the normally ubiquitous potatoes are hard to find and are several times more expensive on the farmers' markets this winter.

Alcohol production leaped 19 per cent as authorities eased sharp restrictions on alcohol production imposed by Gorbachev in 1985 to try to cut the Soviets' severe problem with alcoholism. The restrictions caused long lines at liquor stores and housewives trying to buy a bottle of champagne were furious at being forced to queue up for hours with obnoxious drunks.

Gorbachev's crackdown has transformed public attitudes toward drunkenness from chiding acceptance to disapproval.

Bureaucrats' desperation to import food, medicine, cosmetics, soap and other consumer goods from the West to satisfy citizens fed up with long lines for shoddy domestic goods led to a 24 per cent increase in imports from the West, Tass said Monday.

Economists blamed irregular supply deliveries, resistance to government orders and failure to fulfil contracts for a mere 1.7 per cent rise in industrial production, Tass said.

Strikes and lack of materials caused 40 million worker-days to be lost in 1989, said V.N. Kirichenko, chairman of the government Statistical Commission in the current issue of government Herald.

US incomes outstripped consumer spending

WASHINGTON, Jan 30, (AP): US consumer spending rose 7.3 per cent in 1989, its slowest advance in three years, while incomes jumped 9 per cent, the largest increase in five years, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said spending totalled \$3.58 trillion last year, posting the smallest gain since a 6.4 per cent advance in 1986.

Consumer spending is considered a barometer of economic health because it accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity. The department reported last Friday that spending posted a rare decline of 0.1 per cent during the entire fourth quarter of 1989.

Income totalled \$4.43 trillion last year; their 9 per cent rise marked the sharpest jump since a 9.5 per cent increase in 1984.

Americans' savings rate, savings as a per cent of disposable income, rose to 5.5 per cent from a 4.2 per cent rate in 1988. It was the highest rate since the 6.1 per cent posted in 1984.

On a monthly basis, spending rose 0.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.58 trillion in December, the smallest increase since a 1 per cent advance last August.

Income, however, edged up just 0.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.57 trillion, the smallest increase since a 0.2 per cent gain last September.

The unusually cold weather contributed to the December jump in spending. Expenditures for fuel oil, electricity and natural gas increased \$15.1 billion following a 3.1 per cent increase in November.

Purchases of durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years — rose \$6.7 billion after declining \$2.8 billion the previous month. Non-durable purchases gained \$6.2 billion after a 3.4 billion November increase. Spending on services increased \$24.1 billion following a 9.6 billion advance the previous month.

Several special factors affected the incomes last month.

Boeing reports higher profit

LOS ANGELES, Jan 20, (Reuters): Boeing Co, the world's largest commercial aircraft maker, today reported increased sales and earnings for 1989 as commercial sales offset losses on government contracts despite a 43-day strike.

The Seattle-based company had net earnings of \$973 million on sales of 20.28 billion in 1989 against \$614 million in profits on sales of 16.92 billion in 1988.

It reported an operating loss of \$474 million in its defence and space business for 1989.

For the fourth quarter, earnings declined to \$77 million from 174 million a year ago. Sales were \$4.85 billion compared with 4.87 billion a year earlier.

Boeing said the machinists' strike in the fourth quarter caused "significant delivery delays" which resulted in sales being \$2 billion lower than projected.

Boeing said it expects 1990 sales to increase to about \$27 billion from 20.28 billion in 1989, due mainly to increased commercial aircraft deliveries.

Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.		
US dollar	0.29027	
Stg	0.48726	0.48939
DM	0.17336	0.17412
Sw.Fr.	0.19568	0.19659
F.Fr.	0.05106	0.05137
It.lira	0.0002331	0.0002344
Jan.yen	0.00020217	0.000212
Yen	0.26500	0.27000
UAE Dir.	0.07881	0.07908
S.riyal	0.07716	0.07744
O.riyal	0.07949	0.07978
O.riyal	0.74140	0.75414

Kuwait, Jan 30, (Kuwait): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.		
Period	End	Offered
1 month	8-7/16	8-11/16
3 months	8-7/16	8-11/16
6 months	8-7/16	8-11/16
1 year	8-7/16	8-11/16

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India rupee 0.017220

Sri Lankan rupee 0.007340

Pakistani rupee 0.015630

Bangladesh taka 0.009000

US dollar 0.290800

Pound sterling 0.490000

UAE dirham 0.079140

Deutsche mark 0.173450

Japanese yen 0.002029

Yen 0.26500

UAE Dir. 0.07881

S.riyal 0.07716

O.riyal 0.07949

O.riyal 0.74140

Yen 0.27000

UAE Dir. 0.07908

S.riyal 0.07744

O.riyal 0.07978

O.riyal 0.75414

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1990: Glasgow's great year

By Marc Klemm

be open at weekends from August.

Pollok Park has a summer-long Henry Moore sculpture

After a varied spring and summer programme, they stage "The Trojans" by Berlioz in September.

harmonic, the Bolshoi Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Israel Phil-

actors and real shipyard workers building and launching a ship — to be staged in a former shipyard by the Clyde (Sept 10 - Oct 27). During the year many Clyde-built vessels will make a return visit, including the liner QE2 on July 27.

Glasgow's well-established spring festival, Mayfest (May 4-27) promises to be bigger and better than ever. During summer there will be a succession of other festivals — country music (May 13-19), choral music (June 22 - July 8), jazz (June 29 - July 8), folk music (July 2 - 8), kite-flying (Aug 4 - 5), and a women's festival (Sept) celebrating women in the arts. On June 2-3, George Square and surrounding streets will be transformed into "the world's largest street party," with open-air theatre, buskers and non-stop music, and pop and rock bands on Glasgow Green.

Sporting events will also feature in Glasgow's big year, including the European Indoor Athletics Championships (Mar 3-4), the World Highland Games Championships (June 9-10), and the European Special Olympics (July 20-27).

This is just an indication of the vast scope of the celebrations, and why Glaswegians expect so many visitors to join in the fun. They will find a city well-stocked with hotels and shops (including such exciting new developments as the St Enoch Centre; Princes Square; and the Old Sheriff's Court, where you can see clothes being designed and made, then buy the completed articles).

THE Scots always welcome the New Year in lively fashion, but had never seen anything like the spectacular way Glasgow marked the start of its reign as Europe's cultural capital for 1990. The firework displays and laser shows heralded a year in which Scotland's largest city stages nearly 2,000 special events, and expects to welcome many thousands who have never visited it before.

Museums, galleries and theatres have been refurbished; a new concert hall will open; 30 new works have been commissioned from playwrights, artists and choreographers; and there will be performances by opera and ballet companies, orchestras, choirs, jazz bands and folk groups from many lands.

Not so long ago, "culture" tended to be regarded as something Edinburgh had — but not Glasgow, 44 miles to the west. The Scottish capital has been renowned for over 40 years for its international arts festival, but most of Glasgow's visitors were primarily on business, rather than pleasure. The city has more than 35 museums and galleries, and a lively cultural life, but few outsiders seemed aware of it.

In 1983, the then Lord Provost launched "Glasgow's Miles Better," a campaign devised to correct such misconceptions, and help revitalise the city; as visitors will see, it has worked. Later that year Queen Elizabeth II opened the fabulous Burrell Collection, in a £21 million purpose-built gallery in Pollok Park.

Local shipowner Sir William Burrell, a life-long collector, gave 6,000 art treasures to the city in 1944, and 2,000 more when he died in 1958. It was another 25 years before most of them went on public display, but now the gallery is recognised as one of the world's finest.

Her Majesty's "reunited" in 1985 to open the big Scottish Exhibition Centre beside the River Clyde, then in 1988 crowds flocked to the five-month Glasgow Garden Festival, which revived derelict land on the opposite bank. Over two million visited the city, a total likely to be left far behind in 1990, with its vast programme of events stretching right through the year.

Over 125 exhibitions — including a £5 million exhibition illustrating Glasgow's 1,000-year history, opening on April 7 in the 22 massive vaulted arches under the Central Railway Station — take place during the year. The Burrell will feature Degas (until Feb 25), Pissarro (May 4 - June 17) and "The Age of Van Gogh" (Nov 30 - Jan 1991), as well as displaying selections of its own varied treasures.

The influential Glasgow-born architect, designer and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) will be the subject of several exhibitions, mostly at the Hunterian Gallery, which incorporates Mackintosh House; and in Bellahouston Park, Mackintosh's 1901 designs have been followed in the construction of his extraordinary "House for an Art Lover," which will

harmonic, the Bolshoi Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Israel Phil-

exhibition; and the McLellan galleries re-open on January 24 after a £3.5 million refurbishment. These Sauchiehall Street galleries house five exhibitions during the year, starting with the work of British artists under 35 (until March 10), followed by "Brem-

October, to mark the opera's centenary. From July 31 to August 3, the Bolshoi Opera make their British debut at the Scottish Exhibition Centre — Luciano Pavarotti sings at the same venue on May 16.

Twelve symphony orchestras perform in Glasgow dur-

Loch Lomond



Young visitors at the Burrell collection.

harmonic and the Orchestre de Paris.

The famous 600-seat Citizens Theatre, newly refurbished, gives a season of new productions of plays by Pirandello, Blasco Ibanez, Dumas, Brecht and Shaw; and during the year several major companies — including Britain's National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company — will be performing at a variety of venues.

The river has played a bit part in Glasgow's history, and Bill Bryden has written "The Ship" — a large-scale production involving leading

venues.

"It took six and a half years... and the finished car was valued at \$150,000. Zsa Zsa Gabor's gold-plated Rolls-Royce was also in the 'over \$100,000' bracket.

One of George Barris's own fantasies came true when he designed and built his own make of car, called The Barrister. He told me: "They cost \$75,000 each. Bo Derek has one and Jimmy Caan and Tom Jones ordered theirs. It's a pretty elaborate car, coach-built on a Corvette chassis.

"The Barrister has a 350 cubic engine and I built a complete, aerodynamically-designed new body. It is a modern classic, but with the old-time pipes coming out the sides."

George is a star among stars, and most celebrities who come to smell the exhilarating

scent of oil, petrol and paint stay to become personal friends.

And George stays in business by giving special services. No way-out whims is too much trouble. He said: "David Carradine brought in his BMW roadster. He didn't have seats in it, but sat on a Pakistan carpet."

"David asked me for a special paint job. When I asked him what colour he wanted, he opened a paper bag and pulled out a peach. I did the car that exact colour... with fuzz and all."

"Another time, I was playing backgammon in a club with singer Cher. She had just got a new Mercedes, and was into new colours."

"We discussed what colour I should paint her car, and Cher decided she would like it to match her dress... a kind of turquoise and white. She pulled up the dress, tore off the hem and handed it to me."

"Just two weeks later, she had a car the colour of that dress."

To George, every custom car tells a story. He went on: "That John Travolta is a very nice, quiet young fellow to work with. He wanted something with a lot of performance, and with a 'performance look.'

"So we got him a TransAm Firebird and

the big 426 Pontiac engine and we made him the Travolta Firebird Fever. It had special fenders, big, western wheels and racing tyres."

"We decorated the interior just like this Urban Cowboy movie. There was cow hide over the seats, and the gear shift was a saddle. John worked with me on all the designs and concepts."

George went on: "Then there was Farrah Fawcett... she was another person who wanted to be part of her car. She selected the type of leather and the colour — British racing green."

"Farrah had her name on the side of the car and her initials on the saddle-type upholstery. We put on special fenders, wide wheels and a convertible top."

"Then she had a TV set inside and a four-way telephone. It was a kind of fox-looking car, so we called it the Foxy-vette."

"Even in the town where overkill is a way of life, George's creation for the late Liberace was guaranteed to stand out in a crowded parking lot."

He told me: "We did the whole of the interior of his Cadillac Eldorado convertible like a grand piano. The seats were piano-shaped with an initial 'L' on the back and piano keys on the seats."

Underwood turned into a 'scary cult'

THERE is only one thing in the world that frightens actor Blair Underwood, who plays L.A. Law's aggressive, black, go-getter Jonathan Rollins. And that is the adulteration of women who are trying to turn him into a cult.

Among the thousands of romantic letters pouring in from all over the world to the handsome, 25-year-old actor are some that send a chill up his spine. These obsessed women tell in detail how they are making shrines in their homes so that they can worship him. These are like shrines.

"I agree with him... this is scary. One young lady drove thousands of miles just to look at our house and to see where Blair went to high school. She said she just wanted to be in the presence of where he had been. "Yes, you do get these bent, avid fans. But the majority of people just want to know what Blair is doing and to lend him support. He gets a high percentage of the show's fan mail, a lot of it from England."

Blair, looking sharp as a young lawyer even while off-duty, added:

"Of course, I do get romantic mail. But many of the letters are from people who finally see a black character who stands up for what he wants and is competent."

"People say I encourage black youngsters to do something" with their lives. One mother wrote to say that, because of me, her son was now determined to be a lawyer."

As lawyer Jonathan Rollins, Blair will still be relentlessly ambitious and arrogant in the new series. But many of the letters are from people who finally see a black character who stands up for what he wants and is competent."

Blair, looking sharp as a young lawyer even while off-duty, added:

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MAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Dick Brownie



MAGGIE CROMM'S BIRTHDAY



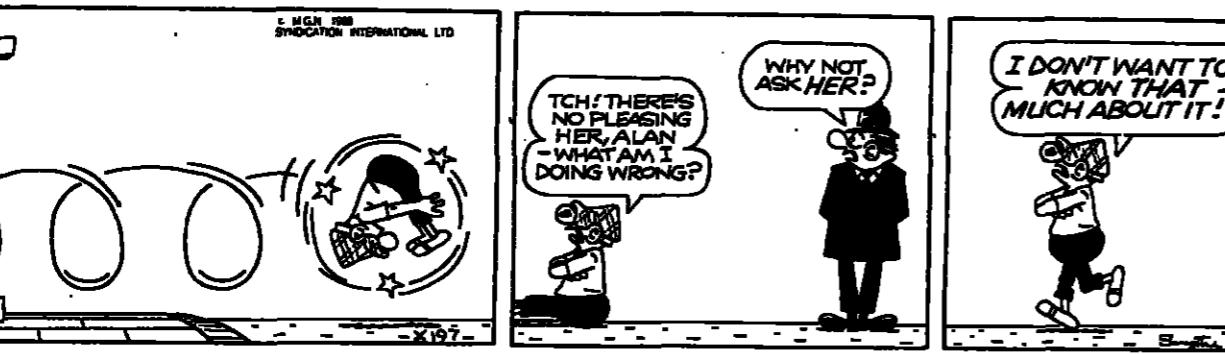
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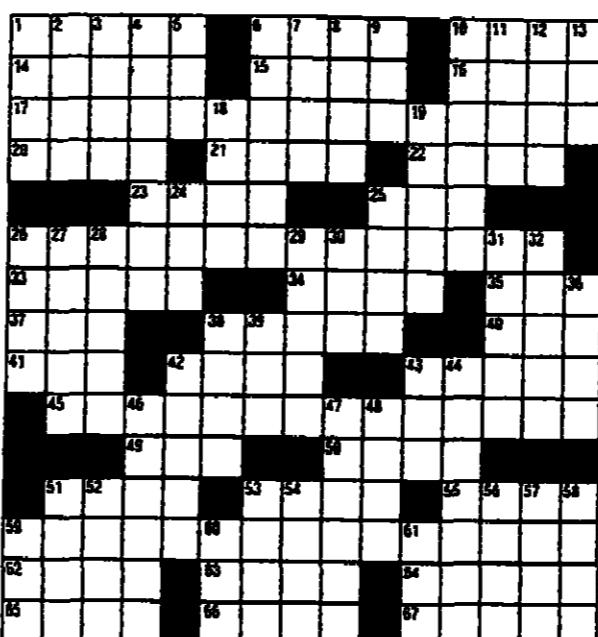
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MENSA



TODAY'S BRIDGE



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South on score, you hold:
you hold:
♦ Void ♠ J7632 ♣ AJ1065432The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠

Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Partner is not running from one spade with a weak hand; he is making a forward-going bid. That means he should have at least the equivalent of an opening bid. We suggest you invite game by raising to two no trump.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ Q7 ♠ K54 ♣ 653 ♣ K1863

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has shown a balanced minimum opening bid. Since your hand is a balanced minimum response, a part-score is the best you can hope for. Pass, even though you have four-card support for partner's minor and your side surely has an eight-card club fit.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ 84 ♠ 76 ♠ J53 ♣ AK7643

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—You are in the slam zone, but you have no idea yet where you want to play the hand. To leave the maximum room for exploration respond one diamond. Partner's next bid will help clarify his holding.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ KJ1098 ♠ 32 ♣ A98 ♣ K84

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Point count does not do full justice to your hand. All the values are prime, you have a fifth trump, good intermediates, a high honor in partner's suit and a ruffing value.

This hand revalues to a full opening bid, so jump to four spades.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable with 40



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

FARMS	NCIAA	STUD
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ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	BODITS
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	CAUTHE'S SAINT
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	ARBOR AMEND AADS
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	ANON ABACA PLAY
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	LION LINKEPT REEDS
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	ESTER CARRIOT
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	BASTIE MOOTS
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ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	STER TAXIDANCER
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	SEAN OODIN MATIE
ESTA	BABY'S SITTER	IRKS LAMIE PLEAS

VIRGO



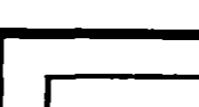
You will tend to be rather overconfident and you should do all you can to curb this tendency. You are liable to take too much for granted. Spend a little more time with your family if at all possible. Be persistent.



You will have plenty of energy but must take care not to dissipate it or waste time. A tendency to overreact should be curbed. Try to think more about others than yourself. Avoid being supercilious. Be less nostalgic.



You will have lot to do but must not get flustered, just get on with it. You will be better able to face the facts. An important decision should be taken right away. Be tactful.



You will be proved right but do not boast about it; you could as easily have been wrong. Once you have made up your mind do not dither, get on with it. Try to avoid getting into bad habits. Be generous.



A little while spent tidying up will save a lot of time later on. You will tend to be forgetful, so do not spurn making notes. You will be able to do something you like doing but must not ignore something that has to be done but you do not like doing. Be respectful.



Do all you can to preserve harmony in your family, particularly where the "laws" are concerned. You should not become involved in something that does not really concern you. Have the courage of your convictions. Be sincere.



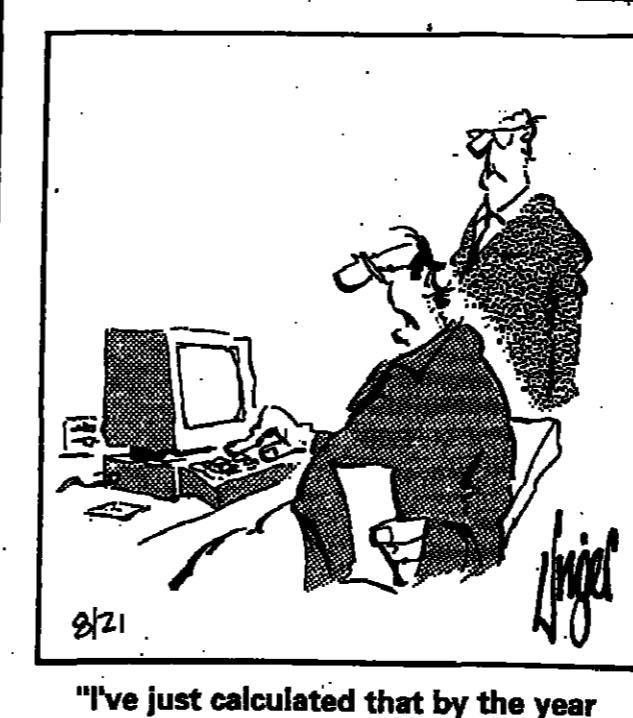
You should not be slow to show your appreciation and gratitude. Be responsive. A tendency to live in the past should be resisted. Make sure you do not allow debts to accumulate.



You will have something to be pleased about, but there is nothing to be gained by resting on your laurels. Show a little more goodwill towards others. You should stop indulging in daydreams. Be careful.



If you expect to have everything your own way you will be very disappointed. Make sure you are correctly dressed for the weather and the occasion. Avoid eating or drinking more than you know you should. Be tolerant.



"You'll need this for the steak and kidney pie."

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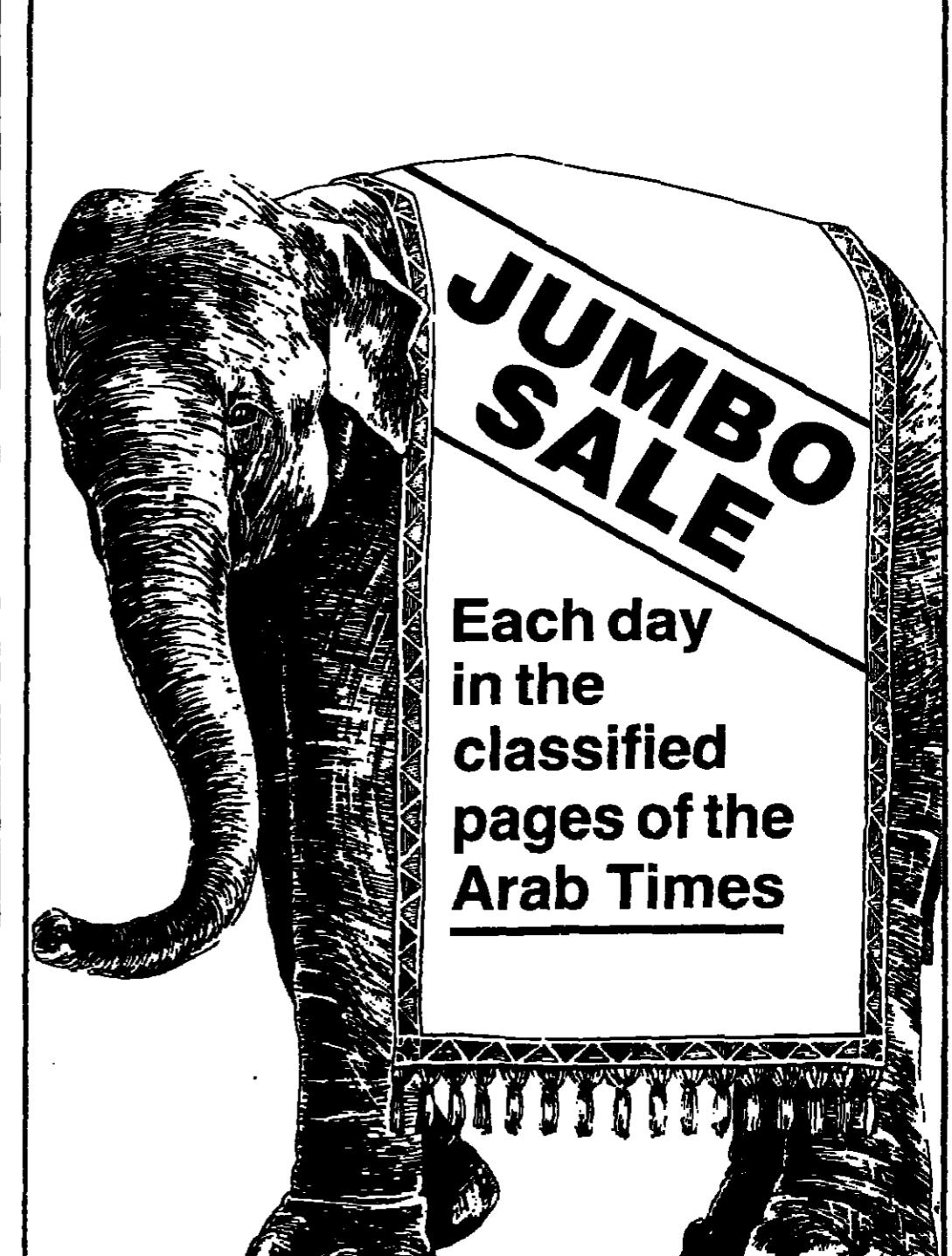
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Ballesteros heads star line-up in classic

DUBAI: Severiano Ballesteros will head the line-up in the Emirates Airline Desert Classic which brings the PGA European Tour back to the Gulf next month.

The Spanish superstar will be among 140 players taking part in the tournament, which is being sponsored by the international airline of the UAE and takes place at Dubai's Emirates Golf Club from February 22 to 25.

With a total of £250,000 in prize money at stake and a first prize of £41,660, the tournament will be the second of the year on the PGA European Tour.

"We are pleased that Ballesteros has decided to come to Dubai," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of Emirates, at a press conference yesterday. "He is the most popular golfer in the world today, and one of the finest players in the history of the game. His appearance in the Emirates Airline Desert Classic gives much extra prestige to the tournament."

Biggest

One day prior to the tournament Ballesteros and 24 other top professionals will join forces with teams of three amateurs in the traditional Pro-Am, which is being sponsored jointly by Emirates and Airbus Industries.

Ballesteros, winner of three PGA European Tour events last year, is the game's biggest personality, attracting the largest galleries wherever he plays. Since bursting onto the scene with two tournament wins in 1976 he has added 43 more victories in Europe, along with 14 others around the world.

Having topped the European Order of Merit five times he has earned almost £2 million in prize money in Europe alone. With additional winnings in the United States, Japan, Australia and a multitude of endorsements and other outside interests, he has become one of the wealthiest sportsmen in the world.

Last year he captured the Cepsa Madrid Open, Epsom Grand Prix and Ebel European Masters-Swiss Open titles.

He also helped Europe retain the Ryder Cup, and the last three triumphant campaigns against the Americans have given him as much pleasure as any of his five greatest individual success in the 1979, 1984 and 1988 British Open Championships, and in the 1980 and 1983 US Masters tournaments.



Platt gets all-clear

LONDON, Jan 30. (Reuter): Aston Villa's David Platt, the English First Division's leading scorer, is expected to be out of action for about three weeks with an ankle injury.

Fears that the striker had broken a leg in Saturday's FA Cup thrashing of Port Vale were dispelled by X-rays yesterday and assistant manager John Ward said: "The feeling is of relief."

"The X-ray does not show a cracked bone, although there is still a lot of swelling around the ankle."

Villa are level on points with First Division leaders Liverpool and Platt has played his way into England's World Cup plans with 19 goals so far this season.

Spurs overcome Lakers

Bulls pull down Hawks

CHICAGO, Jan 30. (AP): The Chicago Bulls had a 20-point lead after one period, then cruised behind 20 points by Scottie Pippen and 16 by Michael Jordan to a 121-111 victory over the Atlanta Hawks last night.

The victory, in which John Paxson and Horace Grant also had 16 points for Chicago, was

the fifth in seven games for the Bulls, 18-2 at home this season.

It also snapped a three-game winning streak by Atlanta, which got 19 points from Cliff Livingston.

Chicago coach Phil Jackson used his bench for most of the fourth quarter. He put eight players in double figures, including rookie Stacey King, who had

a career-high 15 points. The game was tied at 6 when Chicago went on a 22-1 span of 6:25. Chicago's biggest lead was 31-9, and the Bulls held a 35-15 edge after the first quarter, in which they sank 15 of 21 shots for 71 percent. The Hawks converted just 5 of 22 in the period for 23 percent.

Mavericks 108, Nets 88

Roy Tarpley, making his third appearance following a 33-game suspension, scored 23 points to lead Dallas' six straight victory, handing New Jersey its fifth consecutive defeat.

The victory also was the fifth straight at home for the Mavericks, who got 20 points from Derek Harper.

Tarpley was reinstated a week ago by the NBA's drug-counseling service. He had been suspended in November after being charged with driving while intoxicated and resisting arrest.

Sam Bowie had 13 points to lead the Nets, who lost for the seventh time in eight games. New Jersey is 4-18 on the road this season.

Timberwolves 108, Kings 91

Minnesota broke a nine-game losing streak with Randy Breuer scoring all of his 15 points in the second half as the expansion Timberwolves won for the first time since Jan 4.

Breuer, a 7-foot-3 center, got

15 points and 10 rebounds.

Spurs 88, Lakers 84

Willie Anderson blocked a go-ahead layup and made game-winning free throws, leading San Antonio to its first victory at the Forum in more than six years.

The loss broke a 12-game home winning streak by the Lakers, who played without flu-ridden Magic Johnson. It was the first victory for the Spurs since Jan 6, 1984, a span of 14 games.

With the score tied at 84, Anderson blocked an attempted layup by Larry Drew with 16 seconds remaining.

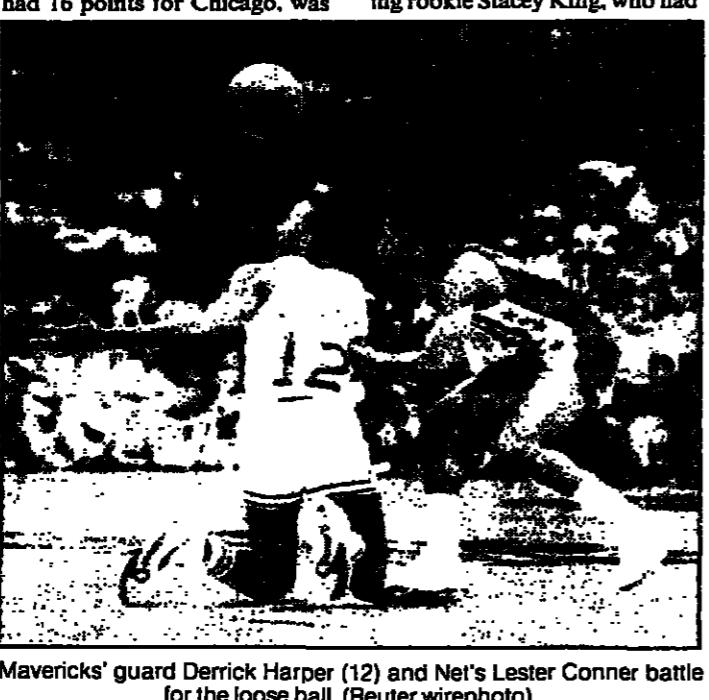
Results

Minnesota 108, Sacramento 81

Chicago 121, Atlanta 111

Dallas 108, New Jersey 88

San Antonio 86, L.A. Lakers 84



Mavericks' guard Derrick Harper (12) and Net's Lester Conner battle for the loose ball. (Reuter wirephoto)

Argentina hit by problems

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 30. (Reuter): Argentina's hopes of retaining the World Cup could be hampered by preparation problems which include having a core of top players, Diego Maradona among them, at clubs halfway across the globe.

Although a group including Cameroun, the Soviet Union and Romania should not be too daunting, national coach Carlos Bilardo is worried that poor fitness levels and a lack of team experience may undermine his ambitions.

"We have two difficulties. One is the slow recovery of the injured players and the other is that we can never play together as a team as many members are in Europe," said Bilardo, who has declined to add the individual problems of his captain Maradona to his list of worries.

Maradona, Argentina's inspiration and match winner in Mexico four years ago when they lifted the World Cup for the second time, is just one of a number of leading Argentine players who are employed by European clubs.

Other Europe-based stars likely to play a major part in Bilardo's team include Jorge Burruchaga (Nantes, France), Gabriel Calderon (Paris Saint Germain), Oscar Ruggeri (Real Madrid) and Claudio Camiglio (Atalanta, Italy).

On a recent tour, with many key players missing, Argentina were beaten 2-0 by Monaco, drew 0-0 with Guatemala and lost 2-0 to Mexico in Los Angeles.

Bilardo was undaunted. "I am not interested in the results of these games. Things would be very different if all of my players were available," he said.

Much, however, will depend upon the physical and emotional condition of Maradona.

Having recovered from the traumatic series of events which led him into a prolonged dispute with his Italian club Napoli and which threatened his future in both Italian and international soccer, Maradona has begun training in earnest for what could be his last World Cup appearance.

After an unimpressive performance for Argentina in the South American championship won by Brazil last year, he requires a major effort and the recovery of his best form if his contribution to the team is to match that of Mexico in 1986.

"I do not think that Maradona will be out of shape because it would not suit him to fail in what he says

might be his last World Cup," said Bilardo, who has remained loyal to his captain.

Maradona, who started the Italian League season late following his now infamous, unauthorised extended holiday, has the advantage of being fresh. In addition to his late return to duty, holder Napoli were knocked out of the UEFA Cup at an early stage and the explosive forward therefore has reduced demands on his energy between now and the finals.

Another star of the 1986 team who is battling to regain his best form before the 24-team finals begin in June is Jorge Valdano. He recently returned to professional soccer after leaving Spain's Real Madrid two years ago after a bout of hepatitis.

Valdano, 34, was in good shape in the training sessions prior to Argentina's January tour and it was hoped he would be able to rediscover the skilful and influential midfield form which was an important part of the Mexico triumph.

His inclusion would be a tactical bonus, too, for Bilardo as Valdano has the versatility and intelligence to blend well between midfield and attack in support of Maradona.

Bilardo, who has carefully blended European-style steel with South American skills in his side, says he does not expect any revolutionary new tactics or systems to emerge from the finals in Italy.

He believes all the 34 nations, like Argentina, will play with three defenders, five midfielders and two forwards and that high-quality, imaginative and bold passing will be important.

"The passes will have to be dynamic, fast and with great precision. Our midfielders ended the season with an average of only one goal per year. In Rome they will have to attack to be worth their places," he said.

In Bilardo's view, Argentina have been very fortunate in avoiding a European team and drawing Cameroun as their opponents in the tournament-opening showpiece match in Milan on June 8.

"This favours us since we will not have the pressure that the fans could have put on us in Milan," he explained. "Argentina will then face the Soviet Union and Romania in Naples...and there I'm sure it will be like being the home team."

"Our group is not one of the most difficult. But neither is it the easiest."

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Wakiihuri takes marathon gold

Lewis makes Games history



Wakiihuri shows his jubilation at winning the marathon. (Reuter wirephoto)



Douglas Wakiihuri (centre) with Moneghetti (left) and Tanzania's Simon Naali, who came third. (Reuter wirephoto)

Iraq hold Norway 1-1 in friendly

RAGHID, Iraq, Jan. 30. (AP): The Iraqi national soccer team drew with the Norwegian Olympic soccer team here yesterday 1-1 in an exhibition game in preparation for Iraq's participation in a major Gulf tournament in Kuwait next month.

Norwegian striker Peter Hagen sent a powerful ball to the Iraqi net in the 23rd minute in a mediocre match in which the Norwegian team seemed to have the edge, although there were a number of storming strikes from Iraq's national team.

Iraq's veteran striker Hussein Said managed to score the team's only goal in the 32nd minute when he sent a scorching shot towards the Norwegian net.

The 10th Arab Gulf Soccer Championship is to be held in Kuwait between February 20 and March 9.

Seven Gulf countries are to participate in the tournament, which was won by Iraq in 1988 in Saudi Arabia.

Nehemiah proves critics wrong

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (AP): When Renaldo Nehemiah, the world record-holder in the men's 110-metre high hurdles, left track in 1982 for professional football, critics said he wouldn't make it in the National Football League.

He spent four years with the San Francisco 49ers and was on the team which won the Super Bowl in the championship—the Super Bowl before returning to track in 1986. Critics said he would never return to the ranks of the top hurdlers.

Again, he showed them to be incorrect. Nehemiah was slowed by

AUCKLAND, Jan. 30. (Reuter): A record fifth swimming gold medal for Australian teenager Hayley Lewis restored the sparkle to a Commonwealth Games hit by a second doping shock.

Lewis, 15 and unknown a year ago, became the most successful woman competitor in the 60-year history of the Games.

Her remarkable performance drew attention away from the pouring rain which washed out some outdoor competition and news that a second athlete, believed to be a Welsh weightlifter, had tested positive for illegal drugs.

Two other Australian teenagers, gold medallist Glen Housman and runner-up Kieren Perkins, joined one of swimming's greats, Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union, as the only men to swim 1,500 metres in under 15 minutes.

Housman, who was robbed of Salnikov's world record by a timing equipment fault last month, narrowly failed to enter the record books once again, finishing 0.49 seconds outside Salnikov's mark with a time of 14 minutes 55.25 seconds.

In the only athletic event Kenya Douglas Wakiihuri added the Games marathon title to his world and London crowns, accelerating away from Australia's Steve Moneghetti in the final kilometre to win in two hours 10 minutes 27 seconds.

The event, run in the morning before heavy rain fell on grey and soggy Auckland, was a repeat of the 1989 London race. Moneghetti, second then, admitted he saw little chance of ever catching the cosmopolitan Wakiihuri who lives in three countries and speaks four languages.

Between them Lewis, who added the 200 metres butterfly title to her portfolio, and Lisa Curry, who notched her fourth gold by winning the 50 metres freestyle, exceeded arch rival Canada's total haul in the pool, underlining Australia's superiority.

Another Australian woman, Decima Norman, won five athletics golds at the 1978 Games but Lewis also picked up a bronze.

A day after Indian lifter Subrat Kumar Paul was sent home after failing an initial test for steroids, Welsh team leader Myrddin John was summoned to a meeting to discuss a second positive test.

Welsh deputy team manager Basil George said it was "highly possible" that a Welsh competitor was involved. Asked if the competitor was a weightlifter, George said: "It could well be."

Games organisers came under fire for opting for random testing for weightlifters against the advice of the International Weightlifting Federation which wanted all medal winners to be automatically tested for drugs.

The Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation issued a statement urging governments world-wide to band together to eliminate drugs from the sport. "Without this commitment both small and large countries cannot implement their wish to ensure that maximum random drug testing is done during preparation as well as competition periods," the statement said.

■ A second drug test on Subrat Kumar Paul, has proved positive, Games sources said today.

The sources said the follow-up test had confirmed the presence

of anabolic steroids in Paul's urine sample.

Drugs checks for the Auckland Games are being carried out in Sydney because New Zealand does not have adequate testing facilities.

Under international anti-doping rules, team officials and athletes are entitled to be present when a follow-up test is conducted after a positive initial finding.

Indian team doctor Manmohan Singh was understood to have returned to Auckland today after travelling to Sydney to witness the second test on Paul's urine sample.

Paul, who was ordered home yesterday by Indian team manager Kanwal Singh Bains, won two silvers and a bronze medal in the lightweight (67.5 kg) division.

India's weightlifters enjoyed an unprecedented success in Auckland, winning a total of 27 medals, including 11 golds.

Medals table after the sixth day of Commonwealth Games competition on Tuesday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Australia	39	41	39
Canada	27	24	21
England	24	22	25
India	11	10	8
Wales	10	4	5
New Zealand	8	6	10
Kenya	2	4	1
Nigeria	1	7	5
Scotland	1	3	4
Nauru	1	2	1
Bangladesh	1	1	1
Jersey	1	1	1
Jamaica	1	1	1
N Ireland	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	1	2
Hong Kong	1	1	1
Bahamas	1	1	1
Tanzania	1	1	1



Lewis acknowledges the applause of the crowd. (Reuter wirephoto)

Equalisers go down to Flyers

AFTER 12 consecutive defeats, Fintas Flyers at last turned out a 4-2 result in their favour, as Equalisers became the third Flyers victims in 42 league attempts. A well earned draw for Fintas Grubbers at home to Zero Down has also helped to make the competition stand the Michel Wednesdays. Darts League members speech almost as interesting as the top of the table battle. Joining No Hoppers on 3 points, these bottom 3 teams now have almost identical game differences and with each one still having to play the other two, some momentous darts are in prospect over the next 5 weeks.

The top five men's teams are won again with a win, but MEE's 4th defeat in 5 games, to Weersmeppeel, has killed off any lingering hopes they had. Chuckers found to their cost, as did Has Beans two weeks previously, that Blackouts are fast emerging as a force to be reckoned with, and another lost point could prove costly to them.

The Mouche Wednesday Ladies Darts League is proving no less interesting, with even less separating their top 5 teams. Bull's Hitters and Zero Down both had to settle for a draw this week, allowing Lady Tossers to take a clear lead. In the first time, on the 12th of consecutive wins, Has Beans, the 3 most interested teams have still yet to play each other, and with Nibblers and Barber Comments only 2 points behind and with an easier playing schedule, the margin between success and failure is likely to be very small indeed.

A 4-4 draw in mid-week saw Northern Light's emulate the Flyers with a first win, when a 3-1 result over Two P's pulled them out of bottom spot and pushed their opponents into their place.

The main scoring highlights of the week revolved around Bull's Hitters players, John Watson, the competition's latest 'Absolute' Record Finch by opening up with a 150 score on his way to a 2-0 win. In the other, Hilary Milne's highest finish of 87 was surpassed after a tenure of 1 week, by a treble 17, double 19 completion of 89 for Barber Comments' Eileen Watters, returning to the top of the table. In the meantime, the last 3 teams have still yet to play each other, and with Nibblers and Barber Comments only 2 points behind and with an easier playing schedule, the margin between success and failure is likely to be very small indeed.

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The latest Mouche Wednesday Darts League results are as follows, with ladder scores in brackets: Nobblers (31), MEE (11), Blackouts (43), Four Play (12), Dinas Soaren (23), No Hoppers (12), Grubbers (31), Absolutely (23), Pacifics (30), Fintas Flyers (104), Four Play (14), Dinas Soaren (35), Chuckers (10), Weersmeppeel (15), Chucks (10), Fintas (34), Has Beans (24), Shower of Tossers (34), Zero Up (13), Bull's Hitters (24), Soweto Slingers (16), Equalisers (42), No Hoppers (32), Weersmeppeel (14).

McLaren fail to get Formula 1 licence

PARIS, Jan. 30. (AP): Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Auto Sports Federation, said yesterday his organization had returned the McLaren team's application to participate in the 1990 Grand Prix auto racing season because of controversy over driver Ayrton Senna.

Balestre told a news conference three weeks ago that Senna, a Brazilian who won the 1988 world championship, would not be granted the "super licence" needed to compete on the Formula 1 circuit unless he withdrew allegations that last year's championship was manipulated in favour of Frenchman Alain Prost.

Prost won the 1989 championship in a down-to-the-wire, controversy-ridden competition with his McLaren-Honda team-mate, Senna.

In a radio programme last night, Balestre said the International Auto Sports Federation had returned the McLaren-Honda team's application forms for its two cars and would refuse the team's participation in Formula 1 racing until the Senna case is resolved.

■ The British Formula One motor racing Grand Prix will take place at Silverstone for five

Frazier's son charged

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 30. (AP): The 27-year-old son of former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier was charged with knocking a 10-year-old boy off a bicycle and robbing him of \$3 and the bike, police said.

Hector Frazier was charged Sunday night with robbery, theft, receiving stolen property and simple assault. The former junior welterweight boxer was being held last night pending arraignment, according to police.

William Neri told police he was riding a bicycle in northeast Philadelphia on Sunday evening when a man knocked him down, took his money and rode off on his bike.

About 30 minutes later, a police officer spotted a man, later identified as Frazier, riding the stolen bicycle. The man fled, but police caught him about a block away.



Sumo wrestler

Grand Champion sumo wrestler Chiyonofuji stands proud as he is congratulated by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu for getting a sports Grand Prix award at the Premier's official residence in Tokyo yesterday (Reuter wirephoto)

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Milan managing without Gullit

INJURED Dutch international Ruud Gullit is fast becoming the forgotten man of Milan as the resurgent European Cup holders prepare to host Diego Maradona's Napoli in an Italian Cup semifinal first-leg tie today.

Billed as the match of the season to date, the tie is the first of three between the top two clubs, the others on February 11 in the League and February 14 for the second-leg.

Despite Gullit's absence — the dreadlocked star has not played since June due to repeated knee surgery — AC Milan are enjoying a wave of confidence with 21 points from their last 11 League matches after a poor start to the season.

"We are managing to win even without our most important player," said coach Arrigo Sacchi of the man whose absence has gone increasingly unnoticed as the team prospers.

"Once upon a time they used to say that Milan was totally dependent on Gullit. But we have won six consecutive matches and no-one talks about him anymore," he said.

"But I haven't forgotten him, he's still close to my heart. We're waiting for him and doing everything possible so that when he comes back he'll find Milan on top," Sacchi added.

Gullit has had three knee operations since June but hopes to be back for the European Cup semifinals in April, confident that Milan will beat Mechelen of Belgium in the quarterfinals.

Maradona himself is doubtful for this evening's tie after he cut his leg and needed two stitches when Napoli beat Fiorentina on Sunday — their first away win since September 10.

Despite his off-the-pitch tussles with the League leaders over the last month, the



Gullit (centre): hopes to play in April. Argentine World Cup captain will do his utmost to be fit for the journey to Milan's San Siro stadium.

In Spain, Real Madrid travel to fourth-placed Valencia today hoping to add to their amazing goal tally. The club need to score 33 goals in their remaining 17 games to break the Spanish record of 96 held by Barcelona. With 64 goals from their first 21 games, seven of them against Castellon last weekend alone, Real must stand a reasonable chance.

Rafael Martin Vasquez, two-goal hero of the Castellon match, continues to make headlines.

He called his second goal "the goal of a lifetime" and told the sports Daily Marca that "it was my best goal as a professional... since I was a child, I thought this moment would come but I thought it would come much earlier."

He said he had not decided his future for the next season but would have renewed his contract with Real if a fee had been agreed. "Now I have decided to leave it for the end of the season and that's what I'm going to do," he said.

In the Netherlands, PSV Eindhoven have said they are not prepared to release Danish international defender Ivan Nielsen before his contract expires in June.

Nielsen, 33, said he had played his last game for the club after being relegated to the substitutes bench for last Saturday's game with Willem II. "We've decided we'll keep him to his contract," said PSV general manager Kees Ploegma.

Ploegma also said he knew of no inquiries from Manchester United about Willem Kieft the Dutch international striker who recently made a transfer request which he has since withdrawn.

Unity, winning the toss, put Evershine into bat. Evershine quickly got into the act, blasting 35 runs of the first 7 overs. Runs came and wickets fell, as they usually do in the Thursday games, as the batsman threw their bat at everything.

In the process Imam and Razzaq departed soon, which brought Zulquran to join opener Shehzad. From 55 for two, these two took the score to 176 without being stumped.

Quick running between the wickets and at time aggression was the result of a comfortable total of 176 for 2 at the end of 22nd over. Shehzad scored 72 n.o. (4 fours) and Zulquran 62 n.o. (4 fours and 2 sixes). Unity fielding was deplorable with a total of 7 catches being floored.

Unity opened up through regular Abuzahr and makeshift Bittu Singh. Abuzahr, always the flamboyant one, earned himself a reputation, by blasting out one of the best bowlers in Kuwait, Dawood Baig, for 20 runs in his very first over with utmost ease.

Bittu, at the other end, not to be outdone, lofted Riffat for a parallel bowlers back six. Sikanter also chipped in with a useful 25 runs. Just when Abuzahr seemed to be settling down for a big score, he holed out a return catch to Razzaq. His blistering innings of 42 contained 5 fours and 2 sixes.

Babar, at the other end, played a sedate but a sensible innings of 42 n.o., along with Sarfraz who scored a quick 20 with 2 sixes, enabling Unity

SPORTS

Teenage batsman in final Test against Pakistan

SYDNEY, Jan 30, (Reuters): Teenage batting prodigy Darren Lehmann has forced his way into the Australian team for the third and final cricket Test against Pakistan starting on Saturday in Sydney.

Selectors announced the surprise move today. The 19-year-old South Australian is one of the youngest players ever selected for a full Test team.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Iota tourney

THE draw of the Seventh Iota Memorial Football Tournament will be held at Caravan Restaurant on Feb 9 at 10.30 am. The tournament will commence on Feb 16. Two representatives of all KIFF affiliated clubs are invited to attend the draw. Entries can be submitted to any G.C.A. representative or Celestino Vaz on phone number 4918259/4831064 or Edwin Pereira 2457230/31.

Mader triumphs

LES MENUIRS, France, Jan 30, (AP): Austrian Gunther Mader won the men's World Cup Super Giant Slalom today, covering the 530-metre course in 1:14.56. He defeated two Norwegians by 45/100ths of a second: Ole-Christian Furuseth was second in 1:15.24 and Atle Skarstad was third in 1:15.26.

Chitanda wins

BANGKOK, Jan 30, (Reuters): Thailand's Sot Chitanda made light of a cut near his left eye to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title today. Sot beat Ric Slodor of the Philippines on points in a scrappy, one-sided bout.

W. Indies tourney

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 30, (Reuters): The Leeward Islands won the West Indies Cricket Championship for the first time yesterday with an emphatic victory over Windward Islands by an innings and 15 runs in St Johns.

S. Korean team

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 30, (AP): South Korea's national soccer team will leave tomorrow for three weeks of overseas training in Europe, the Middle East and Africa in preparation for the 1990 Rome World Cup championship.

Youth Games

BRUSSELS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Brussels will stage next year's inaugural Olympic Youth Games for 14 to 16-year-old athletes from all European countries, a Belgian Olympic Committee spokesman said today.

Russian team

BRUSSELS, Jan 30, (Reuters): The Soviet Republic of Russia will send its own team to an international indoor athletics meeting in Belgium on Sunday. Wifried Meert, Belgian Athletics Federation secretary general, said yesterday he had been told by Russian athletics officials that the republic had never before sent a team to an athletics event outside the Soviet Union.

Safety row

PARIS, Jan 30, (Reuters): Organisers of the world famous Le Mans 24-hour sports car race today backed down in a row with the sport's governing body over safety measures and pledged the race would go ahead in June as scheduled.

Olympic bid

MONTRÉAL, Jan 30, (Kuna): Toronto, Canada's largest and most prosperous city is officially applying tomorrow to become the host of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. But the city's application has been enmeshed in a controversy as to whether it should be spending money on sports and proper housing.

Brothers sail past Meridien

BROTHERS Sporting Cricket Club thrashed Meridien by 50 runs in a GCI Friday League match at the EPI ground on Friday.

Batting first, Brothers were all out for 98. Hiron was the top scorer with 27 while Saeed hit 16. Masood also 11.

Meridien failed to score only 3.26 runs per over but they ran into very accurate bowling from the Brothers' pacemen and the whole side was out for only 48 in 19 overs.

Only Chaudhry reached the double figures with 16.

For Brothers, the main wicket-takers were Kanti Patel with five for 11, Solman four for 11 and Mossadeq one wicket.

"It's fantastic, I can't believe it," said Lehmann who has notched up four centuries for his state side this summer and currently has an average of over 60 for the season.

Three other changes were forced on the selectors by injuries to batsmen David Boon, Geoff Marsh and bowler Greg

Campbell who were replaced by the Western Australian trio of Tom Moody, Mike Veletta and Terry Alderman.

Boon had minor knee surgery last week, opener Marsh is recovering from a broken thumb and Campbell has not overcome a strained thigh muscle he suffered in a Sheffield Shield match last weekend.

Australia are one up in the three match

series after their narrow victory in the first Test. The second Test was drawn.

Team: Allan Border (captain), Terry Alderman, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Dean Jones, Darren Lehmann, Tom Moody, Carl Rackemann, Mark Taylor, Peter Taylor, Mike Veletta, Stephen Waugh.

India escape defeat

Hirwani survives last ball appeal



Vijay Chandrasekhar



Ajay Sharma

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Jan 30, (Reuters): Narendra Hirwani, India's number 11 batsman, survived an lbw appeal off the last ball of the game, bowled by Russell Mawhinney, as the four-day cricket match against Otago ended in a draw today.

India set a 261-run target in 56 overs, finished on 256 for nine after earlier looking set for a comfortable victory.

Both sides contributed hugely

to a tense finale after the loss of virtually the entire third day's play through bad weather.

Scoreboard

OTAGO first innings 226 for 5 wickets declared. K. Rutherford 226 not out, R. Mawhinney 68, N. Hirwani four (97).

INDIA first innings 277 for 4, declared overnight (W. Raman 123, G. Singh 115 D. Hunter two for 86).

OTAGO second innings

P. Dobbs c Raman b Venkataaramana 38

B. Harris c Azharuddin b Wassan 3

K. Burns lbw b Wassan 0

K. Rutherford c Chandrasekhar b

Wassan 0

B. Blair c sub (Razdan) b Raju 47

R. W. Mawhinney not out 5

P. Hills c Raman b Venkataaramana 7

Extras (b-8 lb-1 nb-2) 11

Total (for six wickets declared) 111

Fall of wickets: 1-92 2-93 10-4-84 5-

100 6-111.

Bowling: Wassan 11-2-25-3 (2nb).

Kapil Dev 7-4-5-0, Tendulkar 4-2-10-

0, Venkataaramana, 8-5-2-29-2, Raju

8-2-25-1, Raman 1-0-7-0.

INDIA second innings

W. Raman lbw b Hunter 22

V. Chandrasekhar c Dobbs b John-

son 71

S. Tendulkar c Dobbs b Hills 39

A. Sharma c Dobbs b Hills 70

Kapil Dev c Hunter b Mawhinney, 21

M. Azharuddin c Dobbs b Mawhin-

ney 2

G. Singh run out 10

Venkataaramana c Dobbs b Hills 17

Atul Wassan not out 11

Venkataaramana Raju b Mawhinney 3

Narendra Hirwani not out 3

Extras (1-0-6-0) 7

Total (for nine wickets) 256

Fall of wickets: 1-43 2-110 3-141 4-

196 5-189 6-236 8-240 9-253

Bowling: Hills 8-2-27-2, Johnson

18-0-77-2 (1nb), Hunter 10-1-63-1

(3nb), Lindsay 4-0-19-0 Mawhinney

17-2-69-3 (2nb).

Scores of tour protesters hurt

Police fire tear-gas

and cast a pall over the reformist image of South African President F.W. de Klerk.

Ntuli blamed South African Cricket Union manager Ali Bacher, organiser of the tour which defies an international sports boycott against the apartheid regime.

"He has a duty to answer to the people of South Africa and the international community," said Ntuli.

Anti-tour committee spokesman Paul Ntuli said the victims were caught in a stampede as hundreds of people tried to flee.

He said about 80 demonstrators were arrested in the fracas in the black township of Mangaung near the Orange Free State town of Bloemfontein where the English players began a three-day match against a South African University XI.

Ntuli said police had told the crowd that the church hall gathering was illegal and protests against the tour would not be tolerated.

A police spokesman confirmed there had been an incident but declined to give details.

Earlier yesterday about 30 black staff staged a half-hour protest at the Bloemfontein hotel where the cricketers led by former England captain Mike Gatting were staying.

Gatting was said to be furious at interpretations put on his comment that as far as he was concerned the demonstrators were simply singing and dancing.

"Some of the interpretations placed on his remarks in British newspapers today are nothing less than a scandalous abuse of

British fairness, journalistic privilege and freedom of speech," tour manager David Graveney said in a statement.

He pointed out that Gatting had on several occasions endorsed the right to peaceful protest and said that in future he and the squad would refuse to answer questions not related directly to cricket.

• Bacher won the right today for a second black demonstration against the rebel tour.

Bacher said he had obtained permission from the Bloemfontein chief magistrate for a peaceful demonstration this afternoon outside the ground where the England rebels are playing a three-day match against a University XI.

Hours earlier baton-wielding police broke up a crowd of about 200 blacks who attempted to demonstrate outside the ground.

Police were out in large numbers in the nearby black township of Mangaung turning back carloads of blacks driving to Bloemfontein at road blocks.

"Mr Paul Ntuli of the National Sports Congress (NSC) rang me today requesting me to seek permission for a peaceful demonstration," Bacher said.

"I gave assurances that we accept the right of people to demonstrate peacefully and the chief magistrate was very understanding," Bacher said.

Yesterday's was the latest in a series of violent clashes between demonstrators and police which have soured the seven-week tour

CRICKET

Sri Lankans cruise past Country XI

CALOUNDRA, Australia, Jan 30, (Reuters): Athula Samarasekera and Asanka Gurusinghe shared a century second wicket stand as the Sri Lankan cricketers cruised to a seven-wicket win over a Queensland Country XI in a one-day match in Caloundra today.

Sri Lanka, who have enjoyed lit-

er success on their tour so far, won with 9.3 overs to spare after being set a modest 189-run target in 45 overs.

Man of the Match Samarasekera and Gurusinghe made victory a fore-

ality after pounding out their 120-run partnership in only 75 minutes. Samarasekera made 75 and Gurusinghe 54.

The Country XI were restricted to 188 for seven after spinner Asoka de Silva put a break on the scoring early in the innings.

His first six overs cost only five runs as the country side limped from 28 for one after six overs to 41 for two after 17. De Silva finished with two for 20 in nine overs.

Scoreboard

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY XI

T. Oliver b Asoka de Silva 21

E. Harris lbw b Ramasayake 10

S. Scuderi c Jayasuriya b Madurasinghe 44

A. Walsh c Wijegunawardene b

Madurasinghe 44

L. Schultz lbw b Madurasinghe 2

B. Spanier not out 24

C. White c Ramasayake b Aravinda de

Silva 9

B. Murphy st Wickremasinghe b

Asoka de Silva 7

B. Bauer not out 1

E. Eason (b-2 lb-3 nb-1) 1

Total (seven wickets, 45 overs) 188

Fall of wickets: 1-28 2-32 3-152

5-125 6-147 7-187

Bowling: Ramasayake 7-2-27-1

(1nb), Wijegunawardene 6-1-21-0,

Asoka de Silva 9-4-20-2, Ranatunga

6-0-26-0, Jayasuriya 4-0-21-0,

Madurasinghe 9-1-32-3, Aravinda de

Silva 4-0-36-1

SRI LANKA

A. Samarasekera c Hogan b Hutchinson 75

D. Ranatunga lbw b Hutchinson 8

A. Gurusinghe c Murphy b Bauer 54